

The Book of 1 Thessalonians

“Life in Christ
until HE Returns”

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

“The Rapture of The Church: What is it?”



1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV)

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Context:



- “Life in Christ until He returns”
- Paul has been addressing “life in Christ”
 - i.e. Fellowship
- Now Paul will address “until He returns”

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

“The Rapture of The Church: What is it?”



Outline:

- 1. Is it Biblical (definition of Rapture)**
- 2. Observations from 1 Thess. 4:13-18**
- 3. Summary/Application**



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“That’s heresy!”

“it’s not in the Bible”

“It is made up by men!”



Defintion:

- **English: “caught up”**



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Defintion:

- **English: “caught up”**
- **Greek: “Harpazo”** snatch away, to take away.



2 Corinthians 12:1–4 (NKJV)

1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3

And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Revelation 12:1–5 (NKJV)

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Genesis 5:22–24 (NKJV)

22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.



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- **Latin: “Rapturo”**





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Observations:



1- It is important to know.

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1- It is important to know.

2- It concerns believers that die before Christ returns

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- 4- It is related to the gospel

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1 Corinthians 15:50–54 (NKJV)

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

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- 11- At that moment we will never be separated from Jesus
- 12- This truth is a comfort

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Summary:



- Christ will return
- The dead in Christ will be raised
- The living in Christ are transformed
- All believers in Christ are reunited
- This reunion is in the air and not on earth
- Christ's resurrection proves our resurrection



Application:

- Are you “in Christ”?
- Has a loved one died but was “in Christ”?
- What does this truth tell us about death?

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 (NKJV)

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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