10/16/22

Sunday pm

Last Days Series: “What Should We Expect?”

Sermon: “The Post-Rapture Church”

2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:10-15; Rev 4

Layout of series:

When Death Comes (8/28/22)

Signs As We Near the End (9/4/22)

The Rapture, p1 (9/18/22)

The Rapture, p2 (9/25/22)

The Post-Rapture Church (10/16/22)

Tribulation Overview (10/23/22)

Tribulation, p2: 144,000 and 2 Witnesses (10/30/22)

Tribulation, p3: Antichrist (11/6/22)

The Return of Christ (11/20/22)

The Millennial Kingdom (11/27/22)

Last Battle/Resurrection of the Lost/Great White Throne Judgement (12/4/22)

New Heaven and New Earth (12/11/22)

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Recap:

By a plain, chronological reading of the book of Revelation, as well as from other scriptures, we see that the rapture, or “snatching up”, is the next event on the prophetic timetable. The church will be removed, individually transformed in a moment into glorified, eternal bodies, and snatched up to be with the Lord. The bodies of those dead in Christ will be resurrected and transformed into glorified, eternal bodies, and reunited with their spirits, who have been with the Lord since death. We will all meet Him together in the air and be with Him where He is.

Following the rapture of the church, there will be a time of tribulation on the Earth, to a degree that the Earth has never seen before.

But before looking into what happens on Earth during that time, we need to consider what is happening with the post-raptured church.

* Judgement seat of Christ
  + We, ***believers***, must stand before Him at this judgement seat.
  + Reference to the place from where the Lord will judge or evaluate works in believers’ lives
  + Greek word here is ‘Bema seat’
    - This term is used to describe the place of judgement where legal justice is served, but also used for the elevated platform where victorious athletes went to receive their crowns, which is the use in view here. (Corinth knew this well)
      * Good or evil (in v10): not moral good or evil, rather worthwhile, or useless activities.
      * Not a time of judging sins – remember, God’s wrath was poured out on Jesus for our sin. He made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us…and we, in turn, become the righteousness of Christ. There is no condemnation for those in Christ.
      * So, this is not a fearful time of judgement, but a time of degrees of reward. Rewards (not punishments) are given for the service done in life.
        + 1 Cor 3:11-15
        + Not just words and deeds, but heart motives and attitudes (the One who judges looks on the heart)
        + We will be victorious athletes. The question will not be our victory (salvation), but the level of our reward
* Timing? Likely not long after the rapture of the church
  + Revelation 4 – rewards perhaps used as part of worship in heaven
* Therefore, because of what He has done for us and since our lives are accountable to Him, we make it our aim to please Him…to live lives pleasing to Him. In surrender and obedience. In everything. All for His glory. 1 Cor 10:31