9/18/22

Sunday pm

Last Days Series: “What Should We Expect?”

Sermon: “The Rapture, p1”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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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The early church was waiting for the return of the Lord to establish His kingdom. But what about the promise to take us to be with Him where He is?

* The second coming vs the rapture: not the same thing
  + Second coming: Jesus’ returning to the Earth
    - Includes His rule and reign on the Earth; He comes as a conquering King in judgement (Rev 19)
  + The Rapture: Jesus’ calling up of the Church to be with Him before His return
    - The fulfillment of Jesus’ promise in **John 14:1-3**
    - We who are alive and remain
      * Mystery: something not revealed before (**1 Corinthians 15:50-52**)
      * Changed or transformed. From corruptible to incorruptible (**1 Corinthians 15:50-52**)
      * In the twinkling of an eye: not a blink, but the amount of time for light to reflect off of the eye
      * Will be “snatched up” (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**)
    - The dead in Christ
      * Resurrection of the believers. The spirits of believers who have been with the Lord since death are reunited with their bodies – but not the perishable bodies, but imperishable, glorified bodies
    - The rapture is a sign-less event (the next event on the timetable)
      * This can happen at any moment. It will be sudden
      * What the rapture will look like…what effect it will have on the world? What will the world’s response be?
    - Our response to this news: “Encourage one another with these words” (**1 Thessalonians 4:18**)

Next time:

* Timing of the rapture in end time events (before the tribulation)
  + No mention of the Church during the tribulation (Rev 4:1-4, etc.)
  + Rev 3:10 (Persevering Church kept from the hour of trial)
  + “Snatching up” different from His return in Rev 19 at the end of tribulation
    - “Take you to be with me” in John 14 different than His coming here
  + There is no judgement in the rapture event. The tribulation is God’s judgement on wickedness. Our judgement was on the cross.
  + The increase of wickedness in the tribulation makes sense if those indwelt with the Spirit are removed.
* Judgement seat of Christ
* Marriage Supper of the Lamb