

THE RAPTURE - GENERAL

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Main idea: general about rapture, focus in impact on us

INTRODUCTION

World in turmoil, uncertain
Seems evil everywhere, nothing fair, right
God greater than it all, will protect us
Will come back to take us to heaven with Him

I. IMPACT ON OUR FUTURE

A. THE TRUTH OF IT

One day the next day will be the day He comes.....

So busy in life, etc., don't think about it
"BLESSED HOPE" for us
Persecuted believers more in touch with this
PROMINENT TRUTH IN GOD'S WORD!

1 Thess 4:13-18 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

ME NEW BELIEVER much talk, focus on rapture

TRANSITION

NOT JUST ESCAPE, though
Jesus' return far more than that!

B. THE HOPE FROM IT

***SIN, SUFFERING, AGE, PAIN, SORROW GONE FOREVER
WITH GOD IN HEAVEN FOREVER more and more of a reality***

We saw that in recent series on Jesus death and resurrection as well
Came, died – ascended
Next thing – COME AGAIN

Told the disciples:

John 14:1-5 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I

am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

Ascension

Acts 1:10-11 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

TRUTH of His coming reassuring, peace, HOPE (assurance)

TRANSITION

But song impacted me about more than just FUTURE assurance, event
Listen again and see what else God says to you through it:

II. IMPACT ON OUR PRESENT

A. WHAT WE WOULD DO TODAY

What else does that song convey besides what awaits us in the future?

ME impacted, implications for TODAY

IF HE COMES TOMORROW, WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING TODAY?

If I knew tomorrow was the day, what would I do today?

This MIGHT be the day, am I doing/living as I should?

WHAT SHOULD I DO TODAY IF I KNEW HE WAS COMING FOR ME TOMORROW?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TODAY IF YOU KNEW HE WAS COMING FOR YOU TOMORROW?

GET RIGHT WITH GOD

Confess sin, get victory over it

Remove anything between me and God

Recommit to relationship with Him

SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH GOD

Spend time with Him – pray, read Bible

GET RIGHT WITH OTHERS

Make up with any where things not right, as much can

Reconnect with those not talked to in a long time

SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH OTHERS

Reassure those closest to us that we love, appreciate them

Tell those who don't know Jesus about Him

B. WHAT WE WOULDN'T DO TODAY

WHAT WOULDN'T YOU DO TODAY?

WHAT WE WOULDN'T DO

Wash kitchen floor
Work on stock portfolio
Watch hours of TV
Slip into that sin that seems to trap us
Hang out at the mall

Why not? Those things wrong?

NO – but not top priorities!!!

(do you see where I'm going with this?)

C. WHAT WE SHOULD DO TODAY

-if CAN do it if Jesus comes, then why not now?

Why put off?

NOT sell everything and live on mt top

BUT keep the most important things first

It is doable, just face it and do it

Procrastination one of Satan's best weapons

WRONG PRIORITIES keep us from being ready whenever He comes

Wouldn't it be GREAT to be able to say we wouldn't do anything different today

Everything in order, everything ready for Him to come!!

IT CAN BE THAT WAY for us

He WILL come one day

If not come before we die, then know will die one

True of me

ALL of you, even really young – not guaranteed life

Rapture or die any time

CONCLUSION

-going to India, closer time comes more in touch with them, all ready

Think about it more, more anxious to get there

Closer we get to heaven more ready, in touch

Not just when get older

But each day one day closer to DAY HE COMES

One day the next day will be the day He come