

# Beam Me Up!!

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

### Introduction

#### I Paul's Desire For The Church

- A. He does not want them to be **ignorant**: - Col 1:9-12; 2 Pt 3:18
  - 1. About those who fall asleep - Heb 9:27
- B. He does not want them to **grieve**: - Job 19:25-27
  - 1. Like the rest of men who have no hope - Jn 11:35

#### II Paul's Doctrine For The Church

- A. We believe that Jesus died and **rose** again - 1 Cor 15:12-20
- B. We believe that God will **bring** with Jesus:
  - 1. Those who have fallen asleep in Him - 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23
- C. We believe that those who have fallen asleep will not be **preceded** by:
  - 1. Those who are still alive - 2 Pt 3:3-4, 8-9; 1Cor 15:21-23
  - 2. Those who are left till the **coming** of the Lord

#### III Paul's Eschatology For The Church

- A. The Lord Himself will come down from heaven: - Acts 1:11
  - 1. With a **loud** command - Jn 5:25-29; 11:38-44
  - 2. With the **voice** of the archangel - Dan 12:1; Heb 1:14
  - 3. With the **trumpet** call of God - 1 Cor 15:50-54
- B. The **dead** in Christ will rise first - Eph 1:13-14
- C. After that, we who are still **alive** and are left:
  - 1. Will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds - Gen 5:24; 2 Ki 2:11-12; Acts 8:36-40; 2 Cor 12:2-4
  - 2. We will **meet** the Lord in the air - Eph 2:2; 6:12
  - 3. We will be with the Lord **forever** - 1Thss 5:10; Jn 14:1-3

- 3. Keep yourselves pure! You are the Bride of Christ!! - 1 Jn 3:3
- 4. Let the anticipation of Christ's return inspire you to go BIG:
  - a. Love like you've never loved before: - Matt 22:37-39
    - 1. Love God with all you heart, mind, soul and strength
    - 2. Love others as yourself (you really love yourself a lot!!)
  - b. Serve God, His church and others with a glad heart!
  - c. Don't sweat the small stuff (it's all small stuff!)
- 5. Obey the Great Commission and live the Epic Life!
  - a. Share the gospel: Phil 1:6
  - b. Make disciples: Matt 28:19-20; 2 Tim 2:2

RAPTURE	SECOND COMING
Christ comes in the <i>air</i> for His own	Christ comes to the <i>earth</i> with His own
Translated Church-age believers go to heaven	Translated believers return to earth
Christians taken to the Father's house (heaven)	Christians come with Christ to establish an earthly kingdom
No judgment on the earth	Christ judges the inhabitants of the earth
Imminent -- could happen at any moment	Cannot occur until many events have transpired
Time of joy and reward for believers only	Time of mourning and judgment for earthly humanity
Occurs before the "day of wrath" (Tribulation)	Occurs after the Tribulation
No mention of Satan	Satan bound for 1000 years
Only Christ's own will see Him	Every eye will see Him
The Tribulation will shortly begin	The Millennial Kingdom begins
Not predicted in the Old Testament	Clearly predicted in detail in the OT

#### The chronological order of the resurrections:

- 1. The resurrection of the New Testament saints (dead/living) prior to the Great Tribulation (Jn 14:3; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:50-53).
- 2. The resurrection of the Tribulation martyrs who will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years following the seven year Tribulation (Rev 20:4-6).
- 3. The resurrection of Old Testament saints following the Millennial Reign of Christ (Dan 12:1-2; Isa 26:19; Ezek 37:13-14).
- 4. The resurrection of the unbelieving dead who will then be judged at the Great White Throne judgment and cast into the lake of fire (Dan 12:2b; John 5:29b; Rev 20:11-15).

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

#### A suggested response to the imminent return of Christ:

- 1. Make sure you are included in Christ! - Eph 1:13-14
- 2. Remember, you are citizens of a better kingdom! - Phil 3:20-21

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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