

# THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

PAT NEMMERS

December 6, 2020

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- *What is your favorite meal? Why?*
- *How is the Word of God like a meal? Come up with several answers as a group.*

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time you met. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat compared the story of Christ's return to a meal with four characteristics.**

### The Return of Jesus is...

#### 1. Wrapped in *Hope* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

- Paul says Christians don't need to grieve about death like those who don't have hope.
  - *In one or two sentences, explain why "hope" is so important in this life.*
- The Bible tells us that those who have passed away are asleep and they will wake up when Christ returns. *How does that give you hope?*
- Verse 14 contains one of the most concise versions of the gospel you'll find in the Bible. Just as Jesus died and rose again, so He will return. *How does that give you hope?*

#### 2. Filled with *Wow!* (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17a)

- The rapture is one epic meal made up of several amazing dishes. Read verse 16 and 17 again slowly, picturing each mini-event.
  - *If you're a Christian, Jesus is coming either with you or for you. Which of the events in vs. 16-17 give you the most "Wow!"? Why do you think that's true?*

#### 3. Topped with *Anticipation* (1 Thessalonians 4:17b)

- Verse 17 gives us the great hope of two meetings in the air at the rapture: meeting our saved loved ones who have passed away; and meeting Jesus Himself.
  - *Who are some people you are looking forward to meeting again at the rapture?*
  - *What do you think you'll do when you see Jesus for the first time?*

#### 4. Served with *Comfort* (1 Thessalonians 4:17b-18)

- *How is this passage filled with comfort for Christians? For you specifically?*
- *Who are some people you could share this passage with this week as a comfort to them?*

### What difference does Christ's return make in your life?

- Jesus' return can comfort you in your sadness, correct you in your presumptions, and cleanse you from your sinfulness.
  - *What's is the most meaningful part of Christ's one-day return for you personally?*

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will live in light of the return of Christ today!



## **Saylorville Kids Sermon Questions**

### **December 6, 2020**

The Bible clearly states that Jesus will return someday, are you ready for Jesus to return?  
What makes a person ready for Jesus' return?

We don't know for sure when Jesus will return, but we do know that He will! If you believe in Jesus and are ready for His return, do you have friends or family members that don't know Jesus? Discuss as a family who are the people you know that need to believe Jesus. Spend time in prayer for them and for you to be bold in sharing the gospel with them!

Using a dictionary, define "hope". In the Bible, "hope" is more about anticipation, not just "I hope I get that toy for Christmas". What is the difference between how we use hope when we talk and how the Bible uses it to refer to God's promises.

Pastor Pat talks about us being together in heaven when Jesus comes again. Do you have loved ones who knew Jesus that have already passed? Talk about how exciting it will be to see them again.

Our enemy, Satan, loves death, whether it's a physical or a spiritual death (giving into our sins). How can you choose life today? What are some sins in your life right now you need to repent of and turn away from? Jesus offers to those who believe in Him an abundant life, do you believe in Him?

Jesus can return at any time, so we are not guaranteed to live a long life. What are some ways today that you can live for Jesus?

### **This week's memory verse:**

#### **Philippians 1:6**

And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**

### **Next week's verse:**

#### **1 Timothy 2:3-4**

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of **God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**