

TRUTH ABOUT THE RAPTURE

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

May 21, 2011

- ◉ Good time to talk about THE RAPTURE
- ◉ **1 Thes. 4:13-18** -- clearest and most important scripture in the on the rapture
- ◉ **RAPTURE:** Not a Bible word
- ◉ Latin verb 'rapere,' "to seize"

THE REASON FOR WRITING-- THERE IS HOPE, v. 13.

- ◉ The hopelessness of the world
 - > Paul's day
 - > Our day -- Evangelical Sisters of Mary in Pulli
- ◉ The fear of the Thessalonian Christians
 - > First Misconception
 - > Second Misconception
- ◉ There is Hope for the Christian

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR HOPE, v. 14

- ◉ Faith
 - > Not mindless faith
 - > Not mindless faith--faith on the right foundation. **Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."** Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence (guarantee or proof) of things not seen."

My Seiko Watch

- ◉ Made of titanium
- ◉ Sapphire, scratch-resistant crystal.
- ◉ On the face it has 100M

Faith - THE FOUNDATION OF OUR HOPE

- ◉ Faith in Jesus' death
- ◉ Faith in Jesus' Resurrection
 - > Wearing my Seiko watch while baptizing
- ◉ Bible makes many promises to Christians
 - > Our hope is based on those promises
 - > How do I know that ours is not a **false hope?**
- ◉ The Result

THE EXPLANATION OF OUR HOPE v. 15a: "by the word of the Lord."

- The Order of the Rapture, v. 15
 - > First
 - > Second
 - > If there is an advantage . . .

The Time of the Rapture--"the coming of the Lord."

- Controversial
- All true Christians believe in the rapture
- Time or timing of the rapture that we can't agree on.
- must all agree - rapture occurs at the time of "the coming of the Lord."

'parousia.'

- Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words:
 - > Two meanings: Presence and/or arrival.
 - > Both meanings are involved in the Rapture

The Description of the Rapture

- The Lord Himself will descend with a shout.
- The Voice of the Archangel
- The Trumpet of God will sound.
- Christians will be caught up together:
 - > The dead in Christ first
 - > Those Christians alive when He comes
- Meet the Lord in the air
- We will be with the Lord forever.

CONCLUSION

- Comfort for Christians