**Sermon Notes October 17, 2021**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: The Rapture

**Scripture**: Revelation 3:10, 4:1, 19:7, Romans 5:9, 13:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 5:9, Matthew 24:36, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55

**Summary**: The rapture of the church is the event in which God “snatches away” all believers from the earth in order to make way for His righteous judgment to be poured out on the earth during the tribulation period. God will resurrect all believers who have died, give them glorified bodies, and take them from the earth, along with all living believers, who will also be given glorified bodies at that time. The rapture of the church is a glorious event we should all be longing for. We will finally be free from sin. We will be in God’s presence forever.

**Read**: Scripture references before your Life Group meeting

There are 5 main viewpoints on the rapture: Pre-Wrath, Partial rapture, Post-Tribulation, Mid-Tribulation, and Pre-Tribulation. Reminder! Our chosen viewpoint does not constitute a salvation issue. We must use caution and not be condemning of those with other viewpoints. In doing so we risk harming the overall Christian position and reputation if we are wrong.

1. **The Church Will Be Raptured**
   1. Revelation 3:10 (ESV)
   2. There is a significant difference between THIS hour of trial and the trials, testing, temptation and struggles of this world.
   3. Neither the Old or New Testament mention the church being present during the tribulation.
      1. Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:9
   4. 1 Corinthians 15:51-55
      1. We shall not sleep (Die)
      2. Twinkling of an eye – nearly instantaneous transformation of our bodies.
      3. Trumpet sounding – not to be confused with the trumpet prior to the second coming.
   5. Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His bride.
      1. Follows the Hebrew cultural understanding of marriage
         1. As individuals living during the church age come to salvation, under the Father’s loving and sovereign hand, they become a part of the bride of Christ (the church). Meanwhile, Christ, the Bridegroom, is in heaven, preparing a place for the bride to live
         2. The Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) comes to claim His bride (at the rapture) and take her to heaven, where He has prepared a place for her. We’re told when the actual marriage takes place… in heaven prior to the second coming.
            1. Revelation 19:7
         3. The marriage supper of the Lamb will follow the second coming, apparently taking place during a 75-day interim period between the second coming of Christ and the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

We can see other parallels.

* Jewish grooms paid a purchase price to establish the marriage covenant, so Jesus paid a purchase price for us.
* A Jewish bride was declared sanctified or set apart in waiting for her groom, so we are declared sanctified and set apart for Christ.
* A Jewish bride was unaware of the exact time her groom would come for her, so we are unaware of the exact time that Jesus will return.

1. **The Second Coming**
   1. Broken into two phases
      1. First phase – The Lord coming to meet us in the ‘air. The Greek language indicates this to be the ethereal region above the Earth.
         1. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
      2. Second phase – He comes to earth with His saints… this occurs at the end of the seven-year tribulation… to reign for a thousand years. The Millennial Kingdom.
   2. Christ coming with His redeemed believers presumes they have been previously raptured. He cannot bring them with Him until He has first come for them.
2. **The Rapture is Imminent**
   1. There is nothing that must be prophetically fulfilled before the rapture can occur. It is a sign less event that can occur at any moment.
      1. Matthew 24:36, Romans 13:11-12

The imminent coming of Christ is intended by God to be the most pressing, incessant motivation for holy living and aggressive ministry… and the greatest cure for lethargy and apathy.

**Application / Next Steps**

What Do We Do in the Meantime?

1. We are to be watching for Him.
2. We should be ready to go.
3. We should want to become more like Jesus each day.
4. We should anxiously await His return.
5. We should be working.

Let’s not forget the tone we set at the beginning of our series. Revelation is a book of hope for believers… justice and salvation prevail. It’s also a book of warning - that justice (God’s justice) and salvation (God’s salvation through Jesus) prevails.