**Sermon Notes July 10, 2022**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: The Rapture

**Scripture**: 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 5:9, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, Genesis 5:24, Hebrews 11:5, 1 Peter 3:20-21, Romans 1:18, 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8, Matthew 16:18, 24:42-44, Revelation 4:1

**Summary**: This Doctrine of the End Times looks at the Rapture. It gives a short history, the various views/theories, and understanding of the Pre-Tribulation theory.

**Read**: Scripture above

There are few other doctrines in the church that we as Christians hold in common… because we share a common belief that we’re in the last days.

Furthermore, the Rapture has probably done more for evangelism and discipleship than most anything else. Seeing that the time is short, we should be getting ourselves ready, and telling others the good news to get them right with God now.

1. **The Rapture**
   1. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
      1. Latin – rapio from the “Latin Vulgate written in the early 5th century.
      2. Greek – harpazo (to steal, carry off or snatch away by force with no resistance offered.)
      3. Believers in Jesus are removed from the earth in an instance, whether dead or alive.
   2. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
      1. A mystery
      2. Not every believer will die, as some will be alive when the rapture occurs.
      3. Genesis 5:24 – Enoch
         1. Hebrews 11:5 – Greek word: metatithemi (transfer without mention of place, because it is well known to the readers.)
      4. Noah vs Enoch
         1. Noah only ever represents the Jewish people going through the Tribulation.
         2. Enoch represents the church and is translated (raptured) before the rains of judgement come down (Tribulation).
   3. Three popular views
      1. Post-Tribulation – The Rapture will happen at the very end of the Tribulation. Here the church is delivered through, and not from, the Tribulation.
      2. Mid-Tribulation – The Rapture will happen halfway through the Great Tribulation. This is seen in how the book Revelation separates the Tribulation into two halves using the wording “time, times, and half a time.”
      3. Pre-Tribulation – The Rapture will occur prior to the Great Tribulation and can happen at any time.
   4. Trumpets
      1. The upcoming seventh trumpet must not be confused with the “Trumpet of God” in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
         1. Seventh Trumpet – war trumpet announcing Christ’s final victory and the final judgements on the earth.
         2. Trumpet of God – sounds before the tribulation and calls the church up to meet the Lord in the air.
2. Scriptural Support for a Pre-Tribulation View
   1. The church will not experience the wrath of God
      1. 1 Thessalonians 5:9
         1. We shall be saved from God’s wrath by the blood of Christ.
         2. Often refuted with John 16:33, however the aim of this scripture is to individual and not humanity collectively.
   2. The church has to be gone for the Antichrist to be revealed
      1. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8
         1. The restrainer must be removed.
         2. Who – Holy Spirit, What – the vehicle of grace the Holy Spirit works through is the church.
   3. The church is never mentioned as being in the Great Tribulation
      1. Revelation 4:1
         1. After what?
            1. After chapter 2 and 3
         2. The church (ekklessia) is never mentioned after chapter 3 until Jesus’ concluding remark in chapter 22
   4. The language of Jesus
      1. Matthew 24:42-44
         1. Referring to the imminent return of Christ
         2. Only the Father knows the day or time

If we embraced a mid or post tribulation view point the imminence of his return, no longer exists. All throughout the New Testament God gave many instructions and warnings to the church, but never are believers warned to prepare for entering or enduring the Tribulation.

**Application / Next Steps**

With all that said, in the end it’s up to God, and if we’re intended to go through the time of tribulation then God will give us the strength and courage to endure.

How do we get the strength and courage? We come into a saving relationship with Jesus.

If you don’t know who Jesus is or want to grow in your spiritual maturity start with prayer, come see one of the elders or pastors. Whatever choice you make, don’t delay as we are not promised tomorrow. There is no way you want to go through the judgements that God is going to unleash on the world.