**Where Are We Going From Here?**

***Understanding God’s Prophetic Plan for The Future***

**The Rapture of The Church** *(Part 2)*

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**I.** Paul Wrote To Straighten Out Their ***Confusion*** About The Rapture Of The Church

 *(vv 13-15)*

**II. Paul Wrote To Build Their In The Rapture Of The Church**

 *(vv 16-18)*

**A. The Lord Will From Heaven** *(v 16a)*

**John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11**

The One who died to \_\_\_\_\_\_ us His bride, is the same One who will return to \_\_\_\_\_\_ His bride out of this world.

The return of Jesus for His church will be accompanied by ***3*** ***distinct sounds:***

1. ***“a \_\_\_\_ of command”***

The Greek word was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expression, and it refers to“a command that is given with authority and urgency.”***(John 5:25-29, 11:43; Revelation 11:12)***

One thing is for sure, this voice will be so authoritatively powerful that it will literally wake up the \_\_\_\_\_!

1. ***“the* \_\_\_\_\_\_ *of an archangel”***

The Bible only mentions one archangel by name, and that is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ***(Daniel 10:13)***

It may be that Michael will be present at the Lord’s return to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s people from Satan and his forces as they pass through his domain. *(****Ephesians 2:2)***

1. ***“the*** *­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***of God”***

Trumpets were often used to call God’s people together for times of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ***(Numbers 10:2)***

There is no indication anywhere in Scripture that anyone other than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will hear any of these sounds.

**B. The Bodies Of Believers Who Have Died Will Be To Life** *(v 16b)*

The phrase ***“the dead in Christ”*** is exclusively a **N.T.** concept. Therefore, it only includes **N.T.**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The phrase ***‘the dead in Christ’*** is simply another \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of ***‘those who have fallen asleep’*** in **vv 13-14**.

The Rapture is not for ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is only for those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is only coming for those who possess His nature, and His nature is only given to those who have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of their sin and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

**C. Living Believers Will Be With Resurrected Believers To Meet The Lord In The Air­** *(v 17)*

Paul was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the return of Jesus, and he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in light of that glorious event.

The words ***‘caught up’***carry the idea of a sudden \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of irresistible \_\_\_\_\_\_ that will literally carry people away. ***(Acts 8:39; II Corinthians 12:2, 4)***

There are forces that will try to hinder our departure if they could, and among them is the pull of \_\_\_\_ and the influence of the world, the flesh, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

Praise God that no force will be able to \_\_\_\_\_\_ us here or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His coming to take us home to be with Him!

When Jesus comes, no \_\_\_\_\_ child of God will be staying. But sadly, there will be many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who will be left behind. ***(Matthew 7:21-23)***

**Conclusion:**

The Greek word translated ***“to meet”*** is a word that was used in the Greco-Roman world to describe the much anticipated, and long-awaited arrival of a *\_\_\_\_\_* who has come to your city!

**v 18 *- “Therefore encourage/comfort one another with these words.”***

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