

“Rapture”

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. The Rapture gets its name from the Latin verb used to translate “caught up” in verse 17. What popular ideas about the Rapture are not found in this paragraph of Scripture?

Why do you think Paul says nothing in this passage about judgment on unbelievers? (However, see the next three verses—5:1–3.) Does this indicate to you that this coming of Jesus is for believers only? Why, or why not?

To what concern of the disciples in Thessalonica does Paul respond in these verses? How did what Paul wrote encourage them? How do Paul’s words here encourage you?

2. Those who believe in a Rapture of Christians before the Tribulation typically understand the Rapture to have already occurred by the time we get to chapter four in Revelation? How is the message of Revelation to you changed if, as a faithful Christian, you will not experience the tribulations described in the following chapters?
3. Read John’s description of judgment in Revelation 20:11–15. Which of the following statements best represents your understand? Why?
 - a. *The final judgment is only for those without Jesus; Christians will not be judged.*
 - b. *Christians will be judged, but not based on what they have done since they are covered by grace.*
 - c. *Christians will be judged according to what they have done.*

How does this understanding of the relationship of Christians to judgment fit into the overall message of Revelation?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?