

The Bishop's Corner

The Rapture is coming

Praise the Lord Saints,

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:3 KJV).” “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV).”

Jesus promised that He will come back for us. If we are not prepared to meet Jesus when He comes in the rapture, then we are probably not ready to meet Him when we die. This is a good time to get saved so we can be sure when Jesus comes because we are not being persecuted directly by anyone for serving the Lord, praying, reading our bible or coming to church; we have freedom of religion.

We must be honest with ourselves and see where we are in the Lord. John tells us that those that have the hope of Jesus' return will purify themselves. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we should be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure (I John 3:2-3 KJV).”

The rapture will precede the tribulation. The church is the only thing that's holding back the tribulation, the antichrist, and lawlessness from coming into the world; after the church is raptured, all these things will come to pass. “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (I Thessalonians 5:8-11 KJV).”

In I Corinthians, Chapter 15, Paul talks about the rapture, and he sums up his teaching by telling the saints not to draw back but to hold on to God because Jesus is coming back for them. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (I Corinthians 15:57-58 KJV).” We must all endure to the end so that we can be caught up to meet the Lord on a cloud in the air.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

