

The Bishop's Corner

We shall be caught up

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, NKJV).

Those who believe in the Rapture, or the catching up of the saints, believe that God is a person and has a body. God can be seen (Genesis 18:1-6) because we were created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). We have the Holy Ghost, so we worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:21-24). Our soul has the same emotions as God, but we must allow the Holy Spirit to govern them (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

Those who have hope in the Rapture purify themselves even as Jesus is pure (1 John 3:1-3) and choose to be outside of anything that does not have God. Never be around anyone who convinces you that you are never wrong because this prevents you from repenting and getting right with God (Psalms 1:1-6). Do not call wrong right. When you join yourself to evil you become evil. “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33, NKJV).

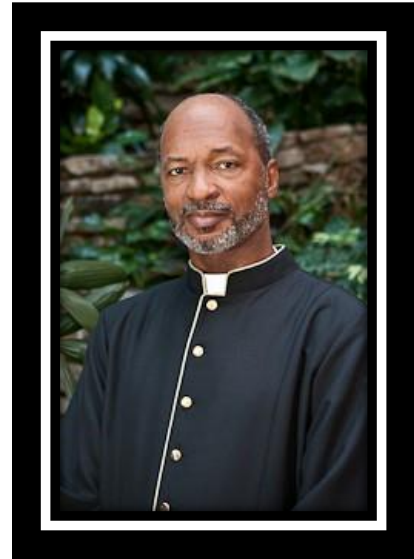
Those who believe they are going to be caught up, are not as sad when saved people die, as they are for sinners when they die, because saved people go to heaven and sinners go to hell. “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15, NKJV).

Those who are saved believe that Jesus is alive. You cannot be saved if you do not believe that Jesus has been raised from the dead. “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20, NKJV).

We are waiting for Jesus to come back for us, so be steadfast in the Lord! “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58, NKJV).

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
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For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastelgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."