

SURVEY OF FUTURE EVENTS

1. THE CHURCH AGE (Matthew 16: 18)

- Worshiping BRIDE Loving FAMILY Healthy BODY Bold WITNESS

2. RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-17)

- DEAD believers are raised first.
- LIVING believers then caught up together with them.

3. JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5: 9-10; 1 Corinthians 3: 11-15)

- Designed for BELIEVERS only.
- Deals with REWARDS, not salvation.

4. THE TRIBULATION (Matthew 24: 21; 2 Thessalonians 5: 1-8; Revelation 4-19)

- The BEAST (Antichrist) gains control of a European confederation of nations (revival of Roman empire) and signs a treaty securing peace in the Middle East. In the middle of the Tribulation he declares Himself God & breaks the peace treaty in an attempt to exterminate the nation of Israel and all followers of Christ.
- The FALSE PROPHET, by the use of signs and wonders creates a one world government with a unified religion with all giving allegiance & worship to the Beast.
- GOD'S WRATH is poured out on the earth for man's sin and rebellion in seven seal and seven trumpet/vial judgments.

5. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (Matthew 24: 29-30; Rev. 19: 11-16)

- Christ returns to earth to defeat Antichrist and the armies of the world at the battle of ARMAGEDDON & take His rightful place on earth's throne as King of Kings & Lord of Lords.

6. SHEEP-GOAT JUDGMENT (Matthew 25: 31-44)

- Christ's judges all who survive the Tribulation. Unbelievers (goats) are sent into eternal punishment and believers (sheep) granted entrance into Christ's EARTHLY KINGDOM.

7. KINGDOM AGE (Isaiah 11: 1-9; Daniel 2: 44; Rev. 20: 4-6)

- This period lasts 1000 YEARS with Christ ruling the earth.
- During this time Satan is BOUND and put off the earth.
- The CURSE is removed from the earth & animal kingdom. The environment is PERFECT again.

8. SATAN'S RELEASE (Revelation 20: 7-9)

- Satan tests those born during the Kingdom age with many following him in one last failed attempt to overthrow Christ.

9. GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (Revelation 20: 10-15)

- The universe is DESTROYED BY FIRE (2 Peter 3).
- Satan and all unbelievers are thrown into the LAKE OF FIRE.

10. ETERNITY (Revelation 21-22)

- A new heaven and a new earth replaces the old. There is no more sorrow or pain, no death, and no night in eternity future, which is the destiny of all believers.

* Remember, the purpose of prophecy is not to create speculation about the future but motivation to live for Christ TODAY!

EXCELLING IN OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER
Lesson 11 - Love's Eternal Hope (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)

INTRODUCTION: Christ's return for His bride, the church, was a major point of emphasis in Paul's teaching to the Thessalonian church to motivate them to live a life pleasing to God. There is a reference to Christ's return at the end of every chapter (1: 9-10; 2: 19-20; 3: 13; 4: 13-18; 5:23).

The church lived with such expectation & excitement for Christ's return, they were totally unprepared for bereavement which raised questions. What will happen with the dead in Christ when Jesus comes for His own? Will they miss out on all the wonderful blessings associated with Christ's return? Will we see them again? These questions became so disturbing they got stuck in their grief. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 to answer their questions. Follow in your notes as we look at 5 key truths Paul drives home in these verses.

1. Eternal Love's Hope is Built on Divine REVELATION.

But we do not want you to be uninformed brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope...For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord...
1 Thessalonians 4: 13 & 15a

2. Love's Eternal Hope Guarantees Christ's RETURN.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God...
1 Thessalonians 4: 16a

3. Love's Eternal Hope Ensures Dead Believers a Bodily RESURRECTION.

For if we believe that Jesus died & rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus...we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep...the dead in Christ will rise first.
1 Thessalonians 4: 14, 15b, 16b

4. Love's Eternal Hope Ensures Living Believers a Transforming RAPTURE.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up...
1 Thessalonians 4: 17a

5. Loves Eternal Hope Guarantees All Believers a Glorious REUNION.

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: 17-18

John 14: 1-3

"I will come again"

"I will receive you to Myself"

"that where I am, there you may be also"

"Let not your heart be troubled"

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

"The Lord Himself will descend from heaven"

"then we...shall be caught up together... to meet the Lord in the air."

"thus we shall always be with the Lord"

"comfort one another with these words"