

## 1 Thessalonians

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### Lesson 6: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

There have been countless sermons preached and numerous books written on end time events. Christians have been consumed with figuring out how things will play out at the end of the world. Sadly, many get so consumed by the events of the end times that they neglect the mission they have been sent to fulfill. Paul taught the Thessalonians about the Rapture and the Day of the Lord. His purpose was not specifically to give them a lesson on eschatology, but to give them hope and comfort. Let's dive in and learn from Paul's instructions about the end times so that we might be motivated to live for Christ and find hope and comfort in Him.

➤ **Context: Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3 and 3:6**

1. What spiritual attitude is missing in 3:6 that is listed in 1:3?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13**

2. In light of the previous question, why did the Thessalonians lose hope?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14–18**

3. In verse 14, what does Paul say is the foundation for the Rapture of the church?
4. In verses 13 and 14, Paul describes those who are “asleep.” What is he referring to?
5. What will God with those who have fallen asleep?
6. In verse 15, where did Paul get his knowledge for his teaching on the Rapture?
7. Who is going to participate in the Rapture?

The word *rapture* is not used in the Bible, but the concept is (see 1 Thess 4:17). The term comes from the Latin word *rapto* which means “to seize, to carry off, or snatch away” and from it we get our English word *rapture*.

8. List the sequence of events of the Rapture that Paul gives in verses 16–17.
  
9. In the movie *Left Behind*, there is a scene of the Rapture. In the scene, the believers quietly slipped away. According to verses 16, is the movie an accurate representation of the Rapture? Why?
  
10. Read John 12:27–33 and Acts 22:9. How do these verses help explain what will take place for the unbelievers at the Rapture?
  
11. At the end of verse 17, what does Paul say is the final result for believers?
  
12. In verse 18, what does the truth about the Rapture do for believers?

**Application:** Which of the following best describes your reaction to teaching on the “end times.”

- I end up feeling nervous.
- It irritates me the way people get so obsessed.
- I get excited and more motivated to live for Christ.
- It motivates me to study the Bible more diligently.
- I come away with more questions than answers.
- Other.

Why do you feel this way?

**Application:** As you think about the imminent return of Christ, does this change the way you live? Why or why not?

**Application:** Paul's purpose in writing verses 13–18 was to comfort the Thessalonian believers. What comforts you the most when you read these verses?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1–2**

13. Compare Acts 1:7 with 1 Thessalonians 5:1. What was Jesus talking about in Acts 1:7?

14. What truth had the Thessalonians had been taught concerning the day of the Lord?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:3**

15. What will be the result of unbelievers in the day of the Lord?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4–11**

16. What imagery does Paul use in verses 4 and 5? What do they contrast?

17. In verses 6 – 8, what should the believer's response be in response to the teaching of the day of the Lord?

18. According to verse 9, how do Christians know they will be raptured and not experience the day of the Lord?

19. What promise is given to believer in verse 10?

20. What is the church's responsibility after learning these great truths about the Rapture and the Day of the Lord?

**Application:** What are scenarios in your own life in which you can bring this teaching to encourage other believers?

**Application:** What one verse in 4:13–5:11 impacted you the most? Why?