

## **CROSSPOINTE CHURCH MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP**

July 15, 2015

*End Times (pt. 2): Return of Christ, Rapture, Tribulation, Antichrist*

### **I. THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

A. Signs of the end of the age: Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21

- (1) Events have both a near and far fulfillment
- (2) The “Already-Not yet” tension
- (3) We do not know the day or the hour
- (4) Our focus is the task, not the timing

### **II. WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?**

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- (1) Is Jesus’ return secret?
- (2) What does it mean to be caught up?
- (3) What is meant by “meet the Lord in the air”?

B. Matthew 24:40-41 & Luke 17:34-35

- (1) Who are those that are left behind?

C. Some conclusions:

- (1) Dispensational views on Israel/Church and tribulation are the origin of two-phase view
- (2) Jesus’ return seems to be a single event, not two

### **III. WHAT IS THE TRIBULATION?**

#### A. Millennial view perspectives

- Postmillennial (post-trib)
- Amillennial (post-trib)
- Historic Premillennial (post-trib)
- Dispensational Premillennial (pre-trib)

#### B. Biblical evidence

- (1) Many Scriptures clearly state that Christians will endure tribulation
  - John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Thess 3:1-4; Acts 14:19-23; 1 Peter 4:12-19
- (2) Why dispensational pre-trib viewpoint disagrees
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 5:9; Revelation 3:10

#### C. Some conclusions:

- (1) The Biblical evidence clearly favors that the church will endure tribulation
- (2) The vast majority of Christians have believed this through the centuries
- (3) A great many Christians have and are experiencing great tribulation
- (4) Clearly the Bible indicates a great intensification before Jesus' return (Matt 24)

### **IV. THE ANTICHRIST**

#### A. The man of lawlessness: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- (1) Rise coincides with the great apostasy: 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Tim 3:1-9

#### B. 1 John 2:18-25

- (1) Antichrist and antichrists
- (2) Person or a world system

#### C. Some conclusions:

- (1) We should be cautious in over-analyzing the identify of the Antichrist
- (2) Whoever or whatever he is, he is no match for Jesus