

The Christian's Death And The Return Of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

We should live ready for Christ's return because the coming of Christ is a comforting hope.

A. Encouragement Concerning Sanctification (4:1-12)

1. It is a walk pleasing to God (v 1)

2. It is commanded by God (v 2)

3. It starts with moral purity (vv 3-8)

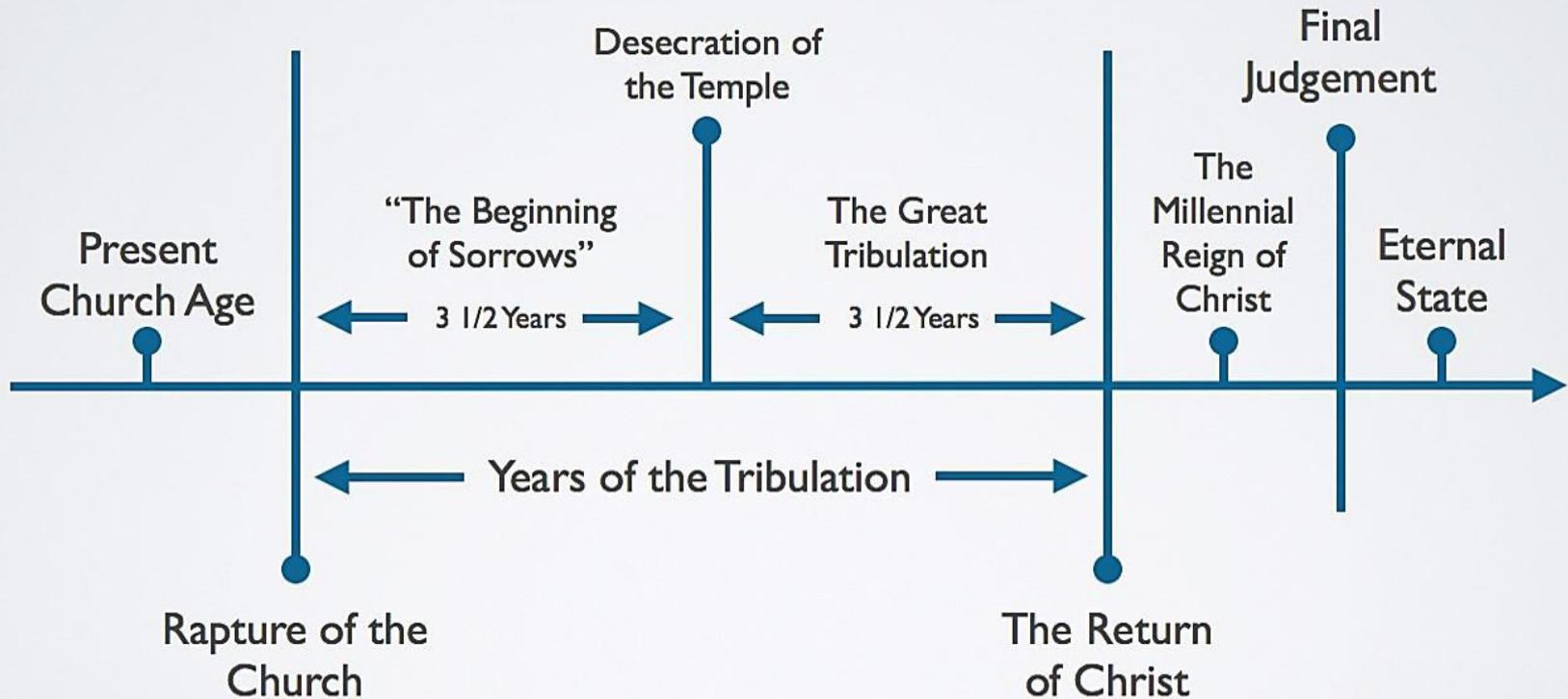
4. It continues by showing the love of God to fellow believers (vv 9-10)

5. It is sustained by doing your unique part (v 11)

6. It is to be seen by non-believers (v 12)

Passages Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

Timeline of the End Times



Contrasts Between This Passage and Matthew 24:30-31

- A. Believers ascend in the clouds vs Christ in coming in the clouds to earth (Acts 1:11, Zechariah 14:4)**
- B. Christ receives us personally versus the angels coming to gather the elect**
- C. Resurrection seen versus not being mentioned**
- D. The order of ascent described versus not being mentioned**

The Rapture Is Not The Second Coming Of Christ
The Rapture Is For The Church, The Second Coming Is
For Israel

The Church's Judgment Is On the Cross, Israel (And
The World) Is Judged in The Seven Year Tribulation
Period

All Come to God Through Jesus Christ

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We should live ready for Christ's return because the coming of Christ is a comforting hope.

B. Enlightenment Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (4:13-18)

- 1. They thought that believers who died would miss out (vv 13-15)**
- 2. The reality is that believers who died go first (vv 16-17)**
- 3. The reality of the rapture brings comfort (v 18)**

**How does a Christian
show that he is expecting
the return of Jesus Christ?**

The Call to the Expecting

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

The coming of Christ is a rousing hope to action, "dead" believers are asleep in Jesus; "living" believers are awake for Jesus.

I. Don't Be Preoccupied With "Times And Seasons" **(5:1)**

1 Thessalonians 5:1

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

II. The Day Of The Lord Will Catch The World By Surprise (5:2-3)

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

**2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord
so cometh as a thief in the night.**

**3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden
destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman
with child; and they shall not escape.**

II. The Day Of The Lord Will Catch The World By Surprise (5:2-3)

A. Like a thief (v 2)

B. Out of the world's control (v 3)

C. No escape (v 3)

III. The Church Should Not Be Taken By Surprise (5:4-8)

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 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.

III. The Church Should Not Be Taken By Surprise (5:4-8)

A. We are God's children of light and day, not of darkness and night (vv 4-5)

Romans 13:13

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

III. The Church Should Not Be Taken By Surprise (5:4-8)

B. We should be watching (v 6)

Ephesians 5:14

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Mark 13:37

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

III. The Church Should Not Be Taken By Surprise (5:4-8)

C. We should be sober (conscious) (vv 6a-8)

1. Don't be asleep (v 7)

2. Don't be drunken (v 7)

3. Put on the breastplate of faith and love (v 8)

**4. Put on the helmet of the hope (expectation) of
salvation (v 8)**

IV. The Church Will Not Experience The Day Of The Lord (5:9-10)

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

**9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain
salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we
should live together with him.**

IV. The Church Will Not Experience The Day Of The Lord (5:9-10)

A. It is not God's plan (v 9)

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 10:43

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

IV. The Church Will Not Experience The Day Of The Lord (5:9-10)

**B. Christ suffered God's judgment for our sins on the
Cross (v 10)**

Matthew 27:45-46

**45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all
the land unto the ninth hour.**

**46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,
saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God,
my God, why hast thou forsaken me.**

1 Peter 2:24

**Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:
by whose stripes ye were healed.**

**Are we living as if we
are expecting
the return
of Jesus Christ?**