

The Rapture – He’s coming back for us!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- I. Confidence – Because Jesus is returning we can have confidence about death (4:13-15).
 - A. We don’t grieve hopelessly like unbelievers (4:13).
 - B. Believers who die will return with Jesus; they don’t miss out on Christ’s return (4:14-15).
- II. The Resurrection/Rapture – When Jesus returns believers will be raised or raptured (4:16-17a).
 - A. Believers who have died will be raised (4:16).
 - His return will be noisy and obvious (16a).
 - Jesus will raise those who died in Christ (16b; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 50-53).
 - Jesus’ return is before the rapture – “pre-tribulational” (See Pastor Sid’s article bible.org/article/rapture-debate)
 - B. Believers living then will be “caught up” [raptured] to join Jesus and resurrected believers (4:17a).
- III. Encouragement – Because Jesus is returning we know we will forever be with Jesus and all other believers (1 Thessalonians 4:17b, 18)
 - A. We will all be together with Jesus forever (17a).
 - B. We should all live encouraged now (18).