

Daybreak Gathering

9/7/23 Assignment:

[Rapture: Why Do Many Dread?](#) – Rapture Ready article by Lisa

## Questions

### Heart Breaking

What could break the heart of a spouse, parent, grandparent, or friend more than the thought of the rapture coming before the ones they love come to Jesus? How could any parent/child/sibling not have a small sense of dread over leaving their loved ones behind?

- 1) Do you have close family members or friends who openly deny Christ? If so, have you added their names to our Gathering prayer list?
- 2) Do you have professing Christians in your life whose salvation you wonder about based on their lifestyle?
- 3) Rather than a promise, Proverbs 22:6 is a godly principle, that when we train up our children in the way they should go, we can have hope they will not depart from it. Does this passage bring you hope over your own children?
- 4) Read Romans 10:13. Does the fact that you've shared the truth of the rapture with lost people in your life bring you hope that they will call upon Jesus when they see that millions have disappeared as you've warned?
- 5) Have you considered praying for them now, on this side of the rapture, that as a tribulation saint they will be a mighty force in spreading the Gospel if they are left behind?
- 6) Have you considered leaving behind letters for these specific people? If you have considered it, but haven't done so, what is it that holds you back?

### Heart Taking

Those who are entrenched in this world, whether focused on good or bad things, likely appear the same to God when He looks upon them. A focus on "good" or bad idols would explain the dread of the rapture for some people.

- 1) Read Jeremiah 2:27. What does God see when He looks at the people of this world, even most professing Christians?

- 2) In what ways have you turned your back to God when enamored by the things of this world?
- 3) How does Hebrews 12:1-2 speak to this topic?

### “Good” Idols

Those who dread the rapture for this reason have kids to get off to college and grandbabies to rock and dreams to chase. This world to them, though filled with what they agree is ever-rising evil, isn’t bad enough to leave just yet.

- 4) What are some “good” idols we focus on without realizing what they really are, flat-out idols?
- 5) Do you ever “self-audit,” do a quick survey of your life to make sure you’re keeping your eyes trained and on the lookout for the deceptive temptations of “good” and bad idols?
- 6) Once you know Jesus on a more intimate level, the One who is coming for you, is it as tempting to hang onto the things of this world, good or bad?

### Bad Idols

For some now, what motivates their dread of the rapture is the notion of getting caught with their hand in the cookie jar. A life lived with active, intentional, unrepentant sin isn’t one that shouts, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

- 7) Note how the word *captive* underpins the word *captivating*. What are some sin patterns that captivate even Christians? Can you give your own personal examples?
- 8) The notion of getting caught with their hand in the cookie jar causes some, lost and saved alike, to dread the rapture. Do you have people in your life like this?
- 9) What does Jonah 2:8 (NIV) say we forfeit when we cling to worthless idols? What does the NASB say we abandon? Is anything worth this?
- 10) According to 1 John 2:28, what might possibly make us shrink away at his appearing?

Truth is on the way to claim you. Don’t greet your Savior in shame.

### **Heart Faking**

A heart faker, whether they realize it or not, is likely clinging to good and bad idols, a mixture of both of the above explanations. This is the believer who is going through the motions, but at the core of who they are, isn’t walking closely enough with Jesus to have developed a heart to love as He loves. They may not even have what they would call a sense of dread over the rapture, but maybe they should since they aren’t walking in all sincerity before Him.

- 1) “What do I care? I’ll be gone.” Do you know people with this attitude over what will happen to others after the rapture?

- 2) How can any believer, one who professes to love Jesus and walks sincerely with Him, not cast a thought in the direction of those who will be left behind? Have you talked to anyone with this mindset? What might be said in response to that way of thinking?
- 3) Heart check: As believers, we are the last example of who Jesus is that the lost will see. How is 1 John 4:19 the key to our being the reflection of Jesus that He's calling us to be?
  - a. Are we genuine?
  - b. Do we love others?
  - c. What are we telling them about Jesus by our lives, our actions, and our beliefs?
- 4) How can 1 Peter 5:3 urge us to more intentionally set a good example before the lost and the found as we draw ever closer to the rapture?

“Should we not even and especially use this charge and be examples toward those who are yet to be born, the unborn-again flock, those who may find salvation during the tribulation because of our love and care for them today?”

The thought above sets the stage for our coming assignments in September. I look forward to us building a “sanctuary” for the left behind together.