

Questions 4/13/23

Video: [The Rapture](#), Pastor Tom Hughes

In case you want to share the Left Behind video that Pastor Tom showed, you can find it [here](#).

Reminders:

- Please read and consider our discussion questions on your own prior to the Gathering on Thursday.
- Bring your Bible and a copy of these questions with you on Thursday night.

Field of Vision

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:2

Pastor Tom said that where we look is where we end up going, and that what we look at is what we become.

1. How can looking horizontally (at news and current events) distract us from our vertical focus?
2. How do we gage where our gaze is fixed? What are some indicators that help us know?
3. Why is the prince of this world doing all he can to draw our eyes away from Christ and His Word?

Deception can take many forms. One form of deception is distraction. We should be looking more at the Light than at the darkness, and spending more time peering into the Word than the world.

What is the rapture?

Pastor Tom: “The rapture is the gathering of believers into heaven with Christ and the translation of their bodies into something beautiful and astounding.”

1. a) Is the word “rapture” in the Bible? b) How can we respond when others say the word “rapture” is not in Scripture?

Food for thought: In 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “caught up” in the Greek is *harpazo*, which means a strong, irresistible force; to pluck, pull, seize. Interestingly, this same Greek word is also used for “caught up” in Revelation 12:5. Read verses 5 and 6 together now.

2. As Pastor Tom said, the doctrine of the rapture may seem “weird.” Why should the fact that it seems unbelievable not cause us to doubt its truth? (Hint: think of Noah, the Red Sea, Elijah being taken up in a chariot of fire, etc.)

The more you learn, the less the rapture seems ridiculous. When you see supporting Scriptures, it makes perfect sense that God would remove the righteous before the coming of His wrath. (1 Thessalonians 5:9, Revelation 3:10)

Who goes up in the rapture?

Pastor Tom reminded us that in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:52). There is a generation who will not die but be caught up.

1. What is required to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air?
2. Is believing in the pre-tribulation rapture a pre-requisite for being a part of it?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16. When the rapture happens, who comes with the Lord (in the air) and why?

Be steadfast!

“Rightly understood, prophecy helps you to understand: Aha, these people are bad. Yes, this really is going on. And yes, Jesus is coming. The problem is, we can’t stop at the bad news.” ~ Pastor Tom

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. If we look at the news and see depressing or frightening things happening and stop there in panic, how might that prevent us from living out this verse?
2. Why is remaining steadfast and continuing the work of the Lord more crucial now than ever?
3. Look up Luke 21:28. What should all the worldly chaos remind us to do?
4. What is the difference between what we now see as tribulation and “the” tribulation?
5. What do 1 Thessalonians 5:9 and Revelation 3:10 tell us about why God will rapture the church prior to the tribulation?
6. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 and 5:11 both convey that those alive at the time of the end should comfort (encourage) one another “with these words.” How can only the rapture explain this admonition?

Pastor Tom’s encouraging words: “This all points to Jesus calling us home...What should we be doing? Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).