



Pastor Titus A. White, Sr.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

WOW – Word on Wednesday
THE CHURCH THAT MATTERS
“Church Get Ready”
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Introduction: We have discussed over the past months “Living Like It Matters – because It Matters How We Live”. Tonight, we will review the second lesson of “The Church That Matters”. 1 Thessalonians 4 discusses the Rapture – and what believers should do in anticipation of the Rapture.

I. The Challenges in View of the Rapture (4:1-12)

- a. What we are to do (*vs 1-2*)
 1. Believers are to live their lives in a way that is pleasing to God 1 Peter 2:11
 2. Behave like you believe
 3. Don’t compromise your Christianity Galatians 5:16
- b. How we are to do it (*vs 3-12*)
 1. Be holy and pure (*vs 5*)
 2. Don’t defraud another believer (*vs 6*)
 3. Love all believers (*vs 9-10*)
 4. Take care of your own business (*vs 11*)
 5. Earn your own living (*vs 12*)

II. The Chronology of the Rapture (4:13-18)

- a. The purpose (*vs 13-18*) Paul explains the rapture for two reasons
 1. To clarify (*vs 13*) – He does not want them to be ignorant of God’s prophetic plan. Luke 17:34-37
 2. To comfort (*vs 18*) – This glorious event may be used to encourage each other. Mark 13:32
- b. The particulars (*vs 14:17*)
 1. The return of the Lord (*vs 14, 16*)
 - All saints: all believers currently in heaven will accompany Him Hebrews 9:28
 - The sound:
 - a. A loud command
 - b. The voice of the archangel Matthew 24:36
 - c. The trumpet call of God
 2. The resurrection of the dead (*vs 16*) – The bodies of the dead believers will rise first. 1 Corinthians 15:21
 3. The rapture of the living (*vs 15-17*) – The believers on Earth will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.