

Series: Our Hope (May 7th 2017)

Title: Our Hope and Resurrection

Text: (Acts 23:6)

Our Hope of Glory: (Col 1:27) “Christ in you”

Our Blessed Hope: (Tit 2:13) “Glorious Appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

Our Hope in the End Times: (Rev 1:19) “The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ!”

Our Hope and Resurrection of the dead: (Acts 23:6) “of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.”

Remember: Hope = Expectation

(1 Thes 4:13-18) The Church at Thessalonica was expecting Jesus in their lifetime.

They were concerned that their loved ones who had died before Christ had returned.

Paul wrote to confirm their faith & understanding of scripture

(1 Thes 4:13) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

Illus: Horton Hears a Who

People are People, no matter HOW small!

People are people, no matter WHERE they are.

People are People, no matter WHEN they are.

These Three Conditions Plague Christians: (1 Thes 4:13)

Ignorance:

We Expect the Lost to be clueless: (1 Cor 2:14)

The Sad part is this is the Christian’s Hope: (Acts 23:6)

“of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.” This is OURS to CLAIM!

Sorrow: Because we don’t know what is coming.
Because our Hope is Hollow, w/o Expectation!

Hopelessness: is the natural result!

We are Downtrodden, Disgusted, & Depressed!

This is not what Christ had envisioned for us! (John 10:10)

I. What is the Mystery of Resurrection

(1 Thes 4:16) *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

A shout that will raise the Dead!

(John 5:28-29)

1. “All” - None Deserted!
2. “Shall Hear” - None Deaf!
3. “Come Forth” - None Disobedient!
From Land, Sea, Deserts, Battle Fields, Grave Yards
4. “They that have done good, unto the resurrection of life”
- None Destitute of Reward!

We will look at in just a moment.

Resurrection of the Saved: (1 Thes 4:13-18)

5. “They that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. We will discuss this in detail in another message.

Resurrection of the Unsaved: (Rev 20:11-15)

- No Disarranged!

Paul Gives us the Order of Events: (1 Cor 15:20,23)

(1 Cor 15:20) *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

(1 Cor 15:23) *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

There is no General Resurrection: (Rev 20:5-6)

There is a 1st and a 2nd Resurrection:

There will be a 1000 year gap between these 2 resurrections.

(Rev 20:1-5-6)

There is a Select Multitude: (1 Thes 4:16) ***“Dead in Christ” only 2 ways to die, In Christ, or Out of Christ.***

If you are born twice, you will only die once.

If you are born only once, you will die twice,

If you die Twice, you will wish you were never born at all.

(1 Thes 4:16c) is the Resurrection of the Body

(1 Cor 15:52) “the dead shall be raised incorruptible”

(1 Cor 15:53) *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

“Corruptible must put on Incorruption”

(Rom 8:21) *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

(2 Pet 1:4) *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Our Sin corrupted Our Soul:

When we received Jesus as our Savior, He quickened, made Alive our spirit, and cleansed our soul from corruption.

Now that we are saved, our bodies are not fit for heaven.

(1 Cor 15:40) *Celestial Bodies, and Bodies Terrestrial:*

Our Bodies must be changed/remade suitable for heaven.

(1 Cor 15:50) *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

(1 Cor 15:53) “This mortal must put on immortality.”

(2 Cor 5:1-4) *Clothed Upon!*

(1 Cor 15:42-44)

We have a hope that is beyond the Frailty of this Body.

We have a hope that is beyond the Boundaries of this Life.

(Rev 21:4-5a)

II. What is the Mystery of Rapture: (1 Cor 15:51)

Paul calls it a Mystery: ***“Behold, I shew you a mystery;”***

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” this is the Theme verse for our Nursery Ministry.

Remember: Hope = Expectation

Paul called it Our Hope and Resurrection of the dead:

(Acts 23:6) *“of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.”*

We saw the Resurrection part, but...

Paul Expected to be alive when Christ returned! (Vs 51)

There is no General Rapture: Not all will be raptured

(Luke 17:34-37)

If you are alive at that time...

You may be in bed,

You may be driving,

You may be at work,

You may be playing basketball & have the greatest
Layup of your life!

A Sudden Moment: (1 Cor 15:52) *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

(Matt 24:36) No man knows the date.

(Matt 24:38-39) Not Expected

(Matt 24:42) We are to be WATCHING! Expecting!
Many people have more Faith in Amazon!

(Matt 24:44) We are to be Ready!
Prayed up, Laid Up, and Ready to Go UP!

“In a moment,” the smallest measurement of time they had.
Same root word we get the english word Atom from.

“Twinkling of an eye”

A sparkling, The wink of the eye, a blink.

Average person blinks 20000 times a day.

20000 opportunities a day for Christ to Return!

“at the last trump:” It will happen at this moment.

(1 Cor 15:51 & 52) ***but we shall all be changed,*** That is what is meant, the Living shall be changed!

(1 Jn 3:2) *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

(1 Thes 4:17) *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

“Then We which are alive and remain”

Paul was including himself.

He was expecting to live to see this day.

“Caught Up” the word Rapture is not in the bible - ***Harpazo***
(Acts 8:39) *Caught away Philip*
(John 6:15) *When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.*

At the Rapture God will ***“Seize us by force”*** and take us away
Neither Grave nor Gravity will keep us from God’s Grasp!

(1 Cor 12:2) *Ye know that ye were Gentiles, **carried away** unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.*

Transported from one place to a new Home on High!

“I’m gonna get carried away, when I get Carried away!”

“I gonna get beside myself, when I get beside the King!”

“I’m gonna have the time of my life, when the time of my life is over!”

“I’m gonna get carried away, when I get Carried away!”

Rapture: (Harpazo) Also Means: Rescued from danger

(Acts 23:10) *And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to **take him by force** from among them, and to bring him into the castle.*

Illus: The Mix Family Dream, or Curse is this inborn desire to own and operate a Junk yard.

Large Electromagnets on a crane to move steel from one place to another. Typically From the ground to a truck. Then the operator would sweep it over the ground. There would be all types of metal on the ground and under the ground having been pressed into the mud. Aluminum, tin, lead, steel, iron, etc.

But as the Magnet was swept over the ground the Steel and the iron would irresistibly rise.

Not all, only the steel & Iron.

So will it be at the Rapture!

Friends. If you are **Heaven Born**, you are **Heaven Bound!** When Jesus returns, You will be **Seized, Taken by force, Transported** to a new place, having been **rescued from danger!** - **Thats the Rapture!!!!**

How Are We Assured this is going to Happen?

***By the Saving Work of Our Lord!** (1 Thes 4:14) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, **even so** them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

(Rom 1:16)

The Same Jesus that was born of a Virgin literally.

The Same Jesus that Died and Rose Again literally.

The Same Jesus will literally Come Again.

Illus: The Incarnation without the Coronation is Life without Celebration.

Our Salvation without our Glorification is No Salvation at all

His Resurrection is the Pledge of our Resurrection.

How Are We Assured this is going to Happen?

The Sure Word of our Lord:

(1 Thes 4:15) ***“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord,”***

1/3 of the bible is about the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

The 1st & last promises in the OT deal with the coming of Jesus Christ.

The 1st and Last promise of the NT deals with the 2nd coming of Christ.

Aren't the Signs of the times proof that Christ is coming?

No, not really,

When you see the Christmas decorations going put up, does that mean Christmas is here? No, **Thanksgiving is near.**

There are signs, but we should always be looking for His Return.

(1 Thes 4:16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Jesus is Coming: (Acts 1:11) *This Same Jesus!*

Jesus will Shout: (Song 2:10) *My beloved spake, and said
unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.*
(Song 2:13b) *Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

The Archangel will be speaking to Israel.
“Behold the Bridegroom Cometh!” (Matt 25:6)

Trumpet of God: (Num 10:9-10)

Rescue: *The Great Tribulation will then Ensnare.*

(1 Thes 1:9-10) *We are to be Waiting!!! Hope=Expectation!*

(1 Thes 5:9) *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to
obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Renunion: (1 Thes 4:17) “Caught up together” those that
were dead and alive.

Reception: (1 Thes 4:17b) “to meet the Lord in the air: and
so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

The Rapture is not the Return:

This is a secluded meeting:

A Hope without end!

A Hope Beyond this life!

Do you have such hope?

This Hope is in Christ Jesus! (1 Pet 1:3-4)

(Matt 24:44) **Are you Ready!**

Remember: *you bat your eyes 20000 times on average.
You have 20000 opportunities for Christ to Return today.*