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Faith Bible Church
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>
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DAILY DOCTRINE
Rapture

1. Definition: The Rapture is the supernatural removal of the church of Jesus Christ out of this world. The term *rapture* comes from the Latin word *rapturo*. This is the Latin translation of the Greek “caught up,” which is found in 1 Thess. 4:17. The word denotes a sudden, irresistible act of carrying off by force. In that passage the apostle Paul teaches that true believers (those *positionally in Christ*) will suddenly be caught up into the air by the power of Christ and will meet Him in the air. This idea of sudden removal of God’s people through powerful, divine activity is something not prophesied for Old Testament Saints.
2. Jesus Christ will return for His own (believers in the Church Age). He will be visible only to believers as He does not come down *upon* the earth. Believers will meet Christ in the air, Heb. 9:28; 1 Thess. 4:17; Acts 1:11.
3. The Rapture was prophesied by the Lord Jesus Christ (LJC) on the eve of His crucifixion, John 14:1-3.
4. The dead in Christ (Church Universal) rise first and then those which are alive are caught up to be with Him, 1 Thess. 4:16-17.
5. All believers (spiritual and carnal) go up in the Rapture---not just those who are in fellowship. All go up, for all are *positionally in Christ*. ”
6. Believers go to heaven where their works are evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ, 2 Cor. 5:10.
7. An example of translation (analogy to Rapture) is Enoch of the Old Testament. He was transferred from earth to Paradise.
8. Rapture involves only church age believers. They are the only body of Christ, 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col. 1:18.
9. Christ appears at the Rapture as the Head of the Church.
10. The Rapture is a mystery in that it was not revealed in the Old Testament, Eph. 3:1-5.
11. The Church endures testing which ends with the Rapture.

12. Passages on the Rapture:

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

1 Corinthians 1:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

13. Rapture is unique: *the idea of receiving a resurrection body without first dying was a new truth never before given.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Let's keep advancing in Bible doctrine!

Pastor Don