



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

October 12, 2014

“Left Behind: The End Begins”

Bryan Garlock

“The most important event in the history of mankind is happening right now. In the blink of an eye, the biblical Rapture strikes the world. Millions of people disappear without a trace. All that remains are their clothes and belongings, and in an instant, terror and chaos spread around the world. The vanishings cause unmanned vehicles to crash and burn. Planes fall from the sky. Emergency forces everywhere are devastated. Gridlock, riots and looting overrun the cities. There is no one to help or provide answers. In a moment, the entire planet is plunged into darkness” (<http://www.leftbehindmovie.com/about/>).

On October 3rd, movie theaters welcomed large crowds of curious people in search for answers concerning the rapture. The movie description in the above paragraph implies the movie is based off the “biblical Rapture” which is said to strike the world at any given moment. While Hollywood makes millions off such movies and their viewers, is this “biblical Rapture” really “biblical”?

The “source” for such teachings is found in 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18. It is said, erroneously, that Paul is teaching these brethren about the coming rapture, much like our Hollywood movie. What’s interesting is that this movie and the books that inspired such a film couldn’t be further from the truth.

In our text, Paul seeks to encourage the living brethren about the brethren who have fallen asleep (died). His desire is that they grieve not the passing of their former brethren. Since these brethren died in the Lord, meaning they were faithful unto death, they had hope of eternal life with Christ as well as a hope of being resurrected themselves (cf. 1 Cor. 15). Then Paul deals with those who haven’t passed on; those “who are left [not “left behind,” but left alive] until the coming of the Lord.” He says of these brethren, you “will not precede those who have fallen asleep.” *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Remember John Blair
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study today, 3:30 PM
- Teen's Bible study / Kid's drill October 19th
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- Coming soon: weekly Bible study at Tuesday 7 PM; ask Bryan Garlock for details
- Coming soon: Young family / couples' Bible study
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Pierce family traveling

Next, as Paul is instructing the Thessalonians as to what will come of those who have not passed on, but are alive when Christ returns, he gives us several clues to disprove the rapture doctrine.

(1) "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven..." (2) "...with a cry of command, with a voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God." (3) "And the dead in Christ will rise first." (4) "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them [the dead in Christ] in the clouds..." (5) "...to meet the Lord in the air..." (6) "...and so we will always be with the Lord."

While I haven't seen the movie, and won't, the majority of rapture believers are unified on the outcome of this fictitious event. "There I was, driving down the freeway and all of a sudden the place went crazy . . . cars going in all directions . . . and not one of them had a driver. I mean it was wild! I think we've got an invasion from outer space!" (Lindsey, Hal. *The Late Great Planet Earth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1970.)

You may have even seen bumper stickers that say such things like, "in case of rapture, car's yours" or "in case of rapture, this car will be unmanned." While Hollywood, book publishers and bumper sticker companies make millions, the truth is buried and the error is espoused. The simple fact is this: the events put forth from the works of John Darby and Hal Lindsey and others, have no foundation in God's Word. This doctrine is utter nonsense.

We will run a short series dismantling piece by piece this so called "rapture theory" beginning next week. As for the "left behind," we will see that such is not the case. Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of your sins before it's eternally too late. Christ will come, and when He does, the entire world will know it. Are you ready? BG

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