

07-18-10

Series: The Resurrections

The Resurrections (15)

What Happens to Christians Who Die?

([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#))

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[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from 07-11-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#))

The Thessalonians' *ignorance about the Rapture* caused them to grieve.

It was to give them hope and to comfort them that Paul discussed that momentous event, giving a **fourfold description of it: 1) its pillars, 2) participants, 3) plan, and 4) profit (the benefits).**

1. The Pillars of the Rapture

The marvelous truth that the Lord Jesus Christ will return to gather believers to Himself is **based on three unshakeable pillars: 1) the death of Christ, 2) the resurrection of Christ, and 3) the revelation of Christ.**

1. The death of Christ
2. The Resurrection of Christ

The view that the **raptured saints** return to earth with Christ also contradicts [John 14:1-3](#):

[John 14:1-3 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ "Do not let 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 "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.

The phrases "My Father's house" and "where I am" clearly refer to heaven (cf. [John 7:34](#)).

[John 7:34 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁴ "You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."

Jesus promised to take believers back to heaven with Him when He returns to gather His people. There has to be a time interval, then, between Christ's return to gather His people (**the Rapture**) and His return to earth to establish the millennial kingdom (**the Second Coming**).

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During that interval between the **Rapture** and the **Second Coming**, the believers' judgment takes place ([1 Corinthians 3:11-15](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)); a post-tribulational **Rapture** would leave no time for that event.

[1 Corinthians 3:11-15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

[2 Corinthians 5:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

[1 Thessalonians 4:14b \(NASB\)](#)

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.

The phrase **in Jesus** is best understood as describing the circumstances in which the departed saints fell **asleep**. They died in the condition of *being related* to Jesus Christ. Paul used essentially the same phrase in [1 Corinthians 15:18](#) when he wrote of those “**who have fallen asleep in Christ.**”

By demonstrating God's acceptance of His atoning sacrifice, the resurrection of Christ buttresses **the first pillar on which the Rapture is based**, the death of Christ.

Now let's remember what we have been talking about.

[1 Thessalonians 4:13 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

It was to give them hope and to comfort them that Paul discussed that momentous event, giving a fourfold description of it: **1) its pillars, 2) participants, 3) plan, and 4) (benefits) profits.**

So far we have looked at: **1) The Pillars of the Rapture 1.**The Death of Christ. **2.** The Resurrection of Christ. **3.** The Revelation of Christ. Now let us look at the revelation of Christ.