The Resurrections (5) The Resurrection of the Church

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
Pastor Eddie Ildefonso
Matthew 28:1-10

(Continuation from 04-25-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

3. The Resurrection of the Church

As previously brought out in the studies of the coming of Christ for His saints and the doctrine of the Rapture, the dead in Christ will be raised at the time of the return of Christ for His own, and together with living Christians, who will be translated, will meet the Lord in the air and go to heaven. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, both the resurrected saints and the translated saints will receive resurrection bodies (1 John 3:2).

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (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.

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, will 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 will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (NASB)

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will 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 will be changed.

⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

⁵⁵ "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE

IS YOUR STING?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

1 John 3:2 (NASB)

² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

The resurrection of the church is the first massive resurrection and is forerunner of others to follow.