

## THE RAPTURE

--1<sup>st</sup> CORINTHIANS 15:50-58--

### INTRODUCTION:

At midnight today a new year begins and for many people as they look at the year ahead, they see a lot of uncertainty, which causes worry, anxiety and even panic. But as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not have to worry or be anxious or panic, because our Lord is in complete control. He knows all about the future and is directly involved in it to bring about His purposes and I cannot help but think that we are in the end times. That we are nearing that time when the Lord Jesus Christ will return for His church. This morning I want to talk to you about the rapture, about the snatching away of the church from the world.

#### I. FLESH AND BLOOD (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:50)

- a. Paul begins by identifying for us who his words are intended for, by addressing his readers as \_\_\_\_\_ or brothers.
- b. He writes, listen to what I have to say, flesh and blood cannot \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God.

#### II. A MYSTERY (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

- a. In verse 51 Paul writes, “Behold, I tell you a \_\_\_\_\_...” (1 Corinthians 15:51a, NASB95)
- b. The mystery is that not all of us are going to \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord returns, some of us will still be alive.
- c. Paul goes on to tell us how quickly this event will take place, he says that it will only take a \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Paul says this change will take place at the last \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Paul goes onto describe the change that will take place and he describes it as taking off old \_\_\_\_\_ and putting on new clothes.

#### III. THE VICTORY (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

- a. When the \_\_\_\_\_ puts on the imperishable, and the \_\_\_\_\_ puts on immortality, then the saying written by the prophets shall come to pass. (Isaiah 25:8; Hosea 13:14)

- b. Jesus Christ triumphed over \_\_\_\_\_ when He rose from the dead.

#### IV. AN ADMONITION (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- a. Paul reminds us in the last verse of this chapter that this truth, this fact that we will one day be changed, that we will one day be ushered into the presence of God; this truth and the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have in Jesus Christ over sin and death, this should cause three things to take place in our lives right now.
  1. This truth of our victory through Christ’s resurrection should cause us to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our faith.
  2. Paul says that the truth of our victory should make us \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Paul says that this truth should cause us to always abound in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
- b. Paul does not want this truth, this doctrine of the resurrection and the rapture just to become \_\_\_\_\_, rather he wants it to have a positive effect on our lives.

### CONCLUSION:

Are you ready for the Lord’s return? Do you eagerly wait for it? Are you hoping that it will not happen until you experience a few more things? Let me encourage you, the experience of His return and the experience of being with Him for the rest of eternity will far outweigh anything that you can experience on this earth. I pray that His coming is soon, I am ready to be with Him. Come, Lord Jesus.