

1 Thess 4:17–18
Mar 26th, 2023

Sermon Conversation Guide

NOTES:

Sermon: The Lord Descends, The Saints Will Rise, & Eternity Beckons (Part II)

- 1) How will we be “caught up?” (17)
- 2) How does this encourage us? (18)

Questions for Discussion:

- What things stood out to you from today’s passage?
- What things did you find challenging or confusing?
- There is a regularly-occurring *already* (now) and *not-yet* (future) dynamic in this letter. What other examples do we have in Scripture of things that are *already* experienced and still *not-yet* fulfilled?
- Why is it a comfort to Christians that we experience heavenly blessings *now*? Why is it also a comfort to long for those things we *not-yet* experience? Give specific examples.
- What is the difference between the fear of being left behind –vs– the hope of our future resurrection? Why does this greatly matter for the church?
- If Christ rose bodily, how is He still with us even now? (see Matt 28:20)
- We live in a world with sickness and death all around us. How do we “encourage one another with these words?”

*Key Words &
Concepts:*

“caught up” ≈ *harpazō*
≈ *grab, seize, snatch*

“rapture”
= *rapio* (Latin)
= *harpazō* (Greek)

“to meet” ≈ *apentēsis*
≈ *a formal welcome*
