

# **The Christian's Sanctification for Christ's Return**

## **1 Thessalonians 3:1-13**

**The coming of Christ is a purifying hope.**

### **A. Paul's Concern for the Thessalonican Believers (3:1-5)**

**1. The depth of his concern (v 1)**

**2. Timothy sent to minister (vv 2-3)**

**a. To establish**

**b. To comfort**

**c. To stand with them through tribulation**

**3. Paul's fear was that suffering would make them  
turn from the faith (vv 4-5)**

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## **1 Thessalonians 3:1-13**

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### **B. Paul's Reaction to Timothy's Report (3:6-10)**

- 1. They were standing firm in the midst of the trial (v 6)**
- 2. The effects of the report on Paul and the others (vv 7-10)**
  - a. Comforted (v 7)**
  - b. Encouraged to keep serving (v 8)**
  - c. Rejoicing (v 9)**
  - d. Praying for them (v 10a)**
  - e. Desire for fellowship (v 10b)**
  - f. Desire for their continued spiritual growth (v 10c)**

# **The Christian's Sanctification for Christ's Return**

## **1 Thessalonians 3:1-13**

**The coming of Christ is a purifying hope.**

### **C. Paul's Prayer for the Thessalonican Church (3:11-13)**

**1. That the Holy Spirit would allow them to return**

**(v 11)**

**2. That the love of God would increase (v 12)**

**3. That they would remain holy until Christ's return**

**(v 13)**



**Why is moral purity  
so important to  
the Christian?**

# **The Christian's Death And The Return Of Christ**

## **1 Thessalonians 4:1-18**

**We should live ready for Christ's return  
because the coming of Christ is a comforting  
hope.**

# **I. Encouragement Concerning Sanctification (4:1-12)**

## **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

**1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

**2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.**

# **I. Encouragement Concerning Sanctification (4:1-12)**

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 - continued**

**3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:**

**4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;**

**5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:**

**6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. and that ye may have lack of nothing.**



# **I. Encouragement Concerning Sanctification (4:1-12)**

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 - continued**

**7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.**

**8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.**

**9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.**

# **I. Encouragement Concerning Sanctification (4:1-12)**

## **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 - continued**

**10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;**

**11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;**

**12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.**

# **I. Encouragement Concerning Sanctification (4:1-12)**

- A. It is a walk pleasing to God (v 1)**
- B. It is commanded by God (v 2)**
- C. It starts with moral purity (vv 3-8)**
- D. It continues by showing the love of God to fellow believers (vv 9-10)**
- E. It is sustained by doing your unique part (v 11)**
- F. It is to be seen by non-believers (v 12)**

## **John 14:1-3**

**1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

**2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

## **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

**51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

**52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

## **II. Enlightenment Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (4:13-18)**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

**14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

## **II. Enlightenment Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (4:13-18)**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - continued**

**15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

**16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

**17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

## **II. Enlightenment Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (4:13-18)**

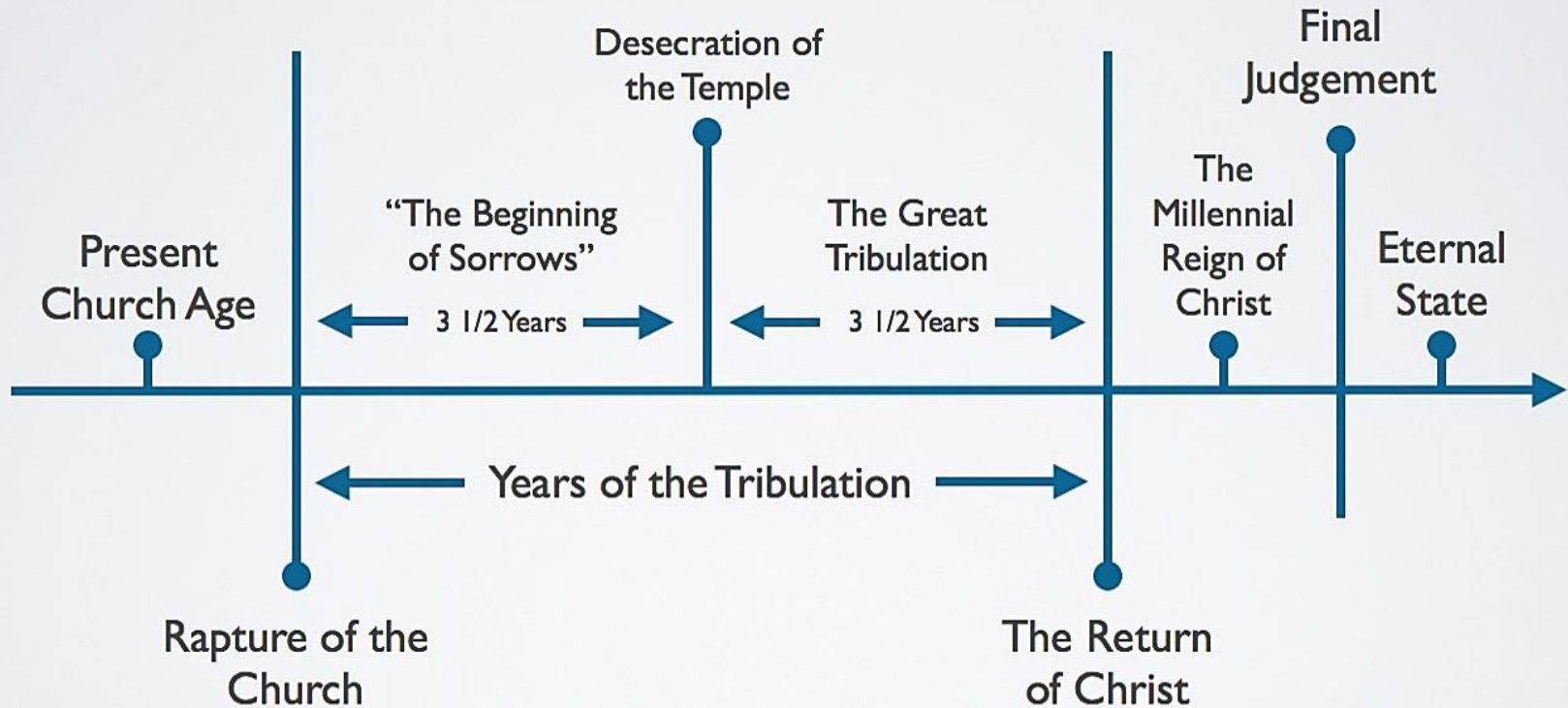
**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - continued**

**18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**



# II. Enlightenment Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (4:13-18)

## Timeline of the End Times



# **Contrasts Between This Passage and Matthew 24:30-31**

- A. Believers ascend in the clouds vs Christ in coming in the clouds to earth (Acts 1:11, Zechariah 14:4)**
- B. Christ receives us personally versus the angels coming to gather the elect**
- C. Resurrection seen versus not being mentioned**
- D. The order of ascent described versus not being mentioned**

**The Rapture Is Not The Second Coming Of Christ**  
**The Rapture Is For The Church, The Second Coming Is**  
**For Israel**

**The Church's Judgment Is On the Cross, Israel (And**  
**The World) Is Judged in The Seven Year Tribulation**  
**Period**

**All Come to God Through Jesus Christ**

## **II. Enlightenment Concerning The Rapture Of The Church (4:13-18)**

- A. They thought that believers who died would miss out  
(vv 13-15)**
  
- B. The reality is that believers who died go first  
(vv 16-17)**
  
- C. The reality of the rapture brings comfort (v 18)**

