THE READY CHURCH: AN EXPECTANT CHURCH

JUNE 3, 2018
**The Ready Church Is:**

- Alive
- Energized
- Steadfast

- Engaged
- Sharing
- God Pleasing

**Today: The Ready Church Is**

An “EXPECTANT Church”
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV) (13) Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. (14) We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. (15) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (18) Therefore encourage each other with these words.
Death Is Not The Ending -- But The Beginning

Death Is Not A Defeat -- Death Is A Door Way

We Have An Expectancy -- That Those Who Pass On Who Are In Christ Are Not Dead -- They Have Changed Locations

We Hang On To Hope
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THIS LIFE WILL CHANGE QUICKLY WHEN THE LORD COMES BACK (AS HE SAID HE WOULD)

- Jesus Said “I Will Come Back For You” -- That is A Promise
- The Lord Will Accomplish All He Has Promised
- This Was, And Is, An Imminent Event
1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NIV) (51) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--(52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

- This is an Immediate & Instantaneous Change & Transformation

- It Will Come Quickly -- We Must Make Plans -- Now!
"Meet" = Meeting A Very Important Person. A Person Of Royalty. i.e. We Will Meet Our King

1 Thes. 4:17 …we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

The Rapture Or “Catching Away” Is A Meeting In The Air -- It Will Occur Before The 2nd Coming
The Latin word *rapto* – GR. *Harpazo* -- “Caught Up” means "to seize, to carry off;" -- English word "rapture."

**HARPAZO** = "To catch away speedily"

**HARPAZO** = "To seize by force"

**HARPAZO** = "To claim for one's own self"

**HARPAZO** = "To move to a new place"

**HARPAZO** = "To rescue from danger"
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1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NIV) (10) ... wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV) (9) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (10) He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
At the Rapture, the dead in Christ will be resurrected and the living will be translated to meet Him in the air.

At this time both the living and dead in Christ will receive their glorified bodies.

These will be immortal, perfected bodies — like the body that Jesus had after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:42-53 and Philippians 3:21).

The God who created the universe out of nothing with a word is fully able to reassemble the decayed bodies of all His saints in a moment of time. The Bible Knowledge Commentary.
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WE WILL BE WITH THE LORD FOREVER

- Our New Home Will Be With Christ
- We Will Be With Him – We Will Celebrate In Glory With Him
- We Will Be Living In Our New Incorruptible Bodies – Receiving Our Assignments From The Lord To Help And Assist In His Reign
  (2 Timothy 2:12 and Revelation 2:26-27).
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THIS IS OUR HOPE – WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WITH THIS

- Jesus Christ Died – But He Is Not Dead – He Rose From The Dead

- Death Is Not An Obstacle For Christ – “He Will Bring With Him Those Who Have Fallen Asleep In Him.”
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JESUS IS COMING: He Will Soon Call Us To Be With Him

- Comfort One Another With These Words

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

- Keep Talking About His Coming.
- Keep Looking For His Coming.
- Whether Hard-hearted Or Heavy-hearted,
- His Coming Is The Ultimate Answer For Every Heart

- Jon Courson’s Application Commentary
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- Don’t Be Asleep
- Don’t Be Surprised
- Don’t Be In Darkness & Night -- But In Light & Day
- Be Self Controlled
- Encourage And Build Up –
  - We Are Not Appointed To Suffer Wrath, But To Receive Salvation
This Present Order Of Things In This World Is Temporary. It Is Moving Toward Another Judgment

Jesus Is Coming Again! When He Comes The 2nd Time, He’ll Come In Power. He Will Do Away With Satan
God’s Word Is True

- It Will Come To Pass
- You Can Base Your Life On It
- We Base Our Lives On God’s Truth -- Not On The Untruths Of Last Days Scoffers
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HOW CAN WE BE READY???

- Receive Christ
- Exalt Christ – Live For Him
- Avoid Sin
- Defend Your Crown
- Yoke Up To Christ (and Take Someone With You)