

I THESSALONIANS 4; November 8; No “Secret Rapture”

ANALYSIS:

1. What had the Thessalonians received of Paul that he wished they would abound in more and more? _____
2. Why were the Thessalonians commanded to increase in love, to study to be quiet, to do their own business and work with their own hands? _____
3. What one word or phrase does Paul use to describe the physical death of a Christian? _____
4. What events and sounds accompany the next coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? _____
5. How does knowledge of the second coming of Christ benefit us who believe in Jesus? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

This chapter contains a very detailed revelation of the Lord Jesus' second coming. There is not a hint that this event is “secret.” There are, however, a number of very non-secret aspects to the second coming of Christ in this chapter. Consider that [1] “the Lord himself shall descend from heaven,” there is [2] “a shout,” [3] “the voice of the archangel,” [4] “the trump of God,” [5] the resurrected and then living saints “caught up together ... to meet the Lord in the air.” This is the next grand event in God's dealing with us His people. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22:20). The idea of a “secret rapture” has become standard doctrine in most circles in our age. Since this is not the truth, but an invention of men, let us be warned to keep our faith based wholly upon scripture. Let us “compare spiritual things with spiritual” (I Cor 2:13), “search the scriptures” (Acts 17:11), “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thes 5:21).

The origin of the “secret rapture theory” began around 1830 with Edward Irving, Miss Margaret MacDonald, and John Nelson Darby promoting this new doctrine. Later Cyrus Ingersoll Scofield widely spread this teaching by notes in his Scofield Reference Bible.

HELP:

1. Paul's teaching of how they ought to walk and to please God (v 1).
2. So that they might walk honestly toward them that are without, and have lack of nothing (v 12).
3. “Sleep” and he is “asleep in Jesus” (vs 13-14).
4. The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: the dead in Christ rise first, living saints are caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air (vs 16-17).
5. This knowledge delivers us from sorrow as others who have no hope, and it allows us to give comfort one to another at the death of a fellow believer (vs 13, 18).