

# The Great Snatch (the Rapture)

John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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**John 14:1-3** NLT “<sup>1</sup> Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”

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**Observation:** **Circle** each time the word “trust” is mentioned. **Box** the phrase - “come and get you.” **Underline** “always be with me.”

1. What is it about your home that makes it feel like home?
2. How did Jesus not want His disciples to respond to His departure? How did He want them to respond? (14:1)
3. What troubles your heart? How can this passage help?
4. What is in God’s house? What did Jesus say He was going to do? (14:2)
5. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for you in His Father’s house?
6. What did Jesus tell His disciples that He would do for them? (14:3)

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**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** NLT “<sup>13</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

<sup>15</sup> We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words.”

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**Observation:** **Underline** each mention of “died” and “alive” or its equivalent. **Circle** the phrase - “caught up.” **Box** any reference to a location.

7. How is a Christian’s grief over the loss of a loved one different from a non-Christian’s grief? (4:13-14)
8. What sequence of events will take place at the rapture? (4:16-17)
  - (1) (v.16)
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
  - (6) (v.17)
  - (7)
9. What influence should the promise of the rapture have on how a person lives today? (4:18)

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**Titus 2:12-13** NLT “<sup>12</sup> And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, <sup>13</sup> while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.”

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10. What anticipation should every Christian have? (2:13)
11. How should we live if we are anticipating the return of Christ? (2:12-13)
12. What can you do to make sure you are ready for Christ’s return each day?

## Conclusion

The rapture of the Church is the believer’s blessed hope (Titus 2:13). **Anticipating the return of Christ and the rapture of the Church has a motivating and purifying effect upon the follower of Christ.**

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**Suggested Action Steps:** ► If you have not yet received Christ as your Savior, do it today. ► If you have not been living for Christ, rededicate your life to Him. ► Read the book of 1 Thessalonians several times and think about what it means to live as a Christian in the End Times. ► Invite someone to the next Bible study in this series on the End Times. ► Attend the next small group discussion on this topic.