Three weeks ago I answered the question that someone sent in… “What is the origin of the Rapture”?

Does anyone remember the answer? A 60 second summary?

Last week the Lord led me to explore 4 different views regarding when the Rapture will occur and who God will be take/catch away. Anyone… A 60 second summary? What are the titles of the 4 main views?

Partial Rapture

Post, mid and pre-trib Rapture

This week the Lord has led me to go a little deeper and answer the other three questions that were sent in;

* Who does God say that I am?
* What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
* What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

It will take a couple of weeks but I believe each one can be answered thru the topic of Sanctification;

So lets start with

1. Who does God say that I am? Romans 3:23

God’s Word says that children of the flesh do not belong to Him, therefore they will not be raptured, receive new bodies, or go to heaven.

* Luke 16:19-31
* Revelation 21:8
* Revelation 20:15

Romans 6:23 – The wage or payment for faithfully choosing to serve sin rather than God everyday…, is death (eternal separation from God)…

and that breaks God’s heart…

But!!! because God is so good and loving, He sent you a free gift…

His Son Jesus, the Christ, to die in your place, to pay your sin debt in FULL. To pardon you…, so you could receive a different payment – the one that Lazarus did.

This is where it gets good!

Those that believe, receive and conceive… You are called:

* A born again child of God - John 1:12, John 3:3
* A new creation in Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:17
* A branch that bears fruit – John 15:1,5
* A friend of Jesus – John 15:15
* A Saint of God – 1 Corinthians 1:2
* A Temple where His Holy Spirit dwells – 1 Corinthians 6:19
* A joint heir with Jesus – Romans 8:17

That’s Awesome News as long as you’re life bears evidence of those things!

Romans 3:24

You are “justified” before God. He see’s you as clean and holy.

Paul says it’s those same clean/holy people, who then use their mouth to profess their faith in Jesus Christ to others, showing their Salvation.

Why do we do this? Because we love God and He loves the world and He knows that the world is heading in a direction that does not lead to heaven.

So he saved and sent you and me to reach them. He has given our lives eternal purpose and meaning.

To tell them about Jesus, the lover of their soul, the One who died in their place…

Praying that the Holy Spirit will enable them to understand the benefit in coming to Christ, repent, and turning to Jesus.

Depopulating hell is the Christians favorite thing to do!

I’m going to say this one time intentionally here, but it will apply to the rest of the message as well.

“Saved” people do not change or obey God’s Word or begin living out their eternal destiny to “BE SAVED”!

It is a work that only God’s Holy Spirit can do…

Me working to be saved, would be like me having to obey my wife and serve her in order to be “married” to her! When in fact I’ve been married to her for 38 years!!

So obviously that means I don’t have to do a thing for you anymore, right honey?

All God expects me to do is love you like Christ loved the church right?

And I do… Remember I told you I loved you on our wedding day…

Now, God expects you to submit to me, because that’s in Ephesians 5.

That…, beloved of God, is what RELIGION, cults and false teachers teach.

It also has produced many people who believe that if they love God mentally, He will submit to them by answering their prayers, and when they die, He will gladly take them to heaven.

THE TRUTH, HOWEVER, is that TRUE BELIEVERS who are saved from eternity in hell, by a RELATIONSHIP with the Father, only thru the Son Jesus, who’s lives are changing by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT

DESIRE to serve God who has “saved” them from eternity in hell, and they do so with GLADNESS through the gifts that His Holy Spirit gives them.

Not to BE SAVED, but because they are saved and they know the Father has created them for “Good works”. Ephesians 2:10

If you’re serving God to be saved you’ve been misled.

* Serving God isn’t always going to be easy (because other people are involved – even Paul & Barnabas split up over a disagreement over John-Mark Acts 15:36-41).
* You and I will fail God from time to time (He knows this, and so should you).
* But a relationship with Him means we focus upon Jesus the author and finisher of our faith Hebrews 12:1-2
* And we live as unto the Lord in obedience to Christ. Colossians 3:23

Can you see the transformation that happens when one has a “soul saving” relationship with Jesus Christ?

When we go to God for forgiveness of our sin (and we all know when and where we have sinned against God and His Word)… and He transfers our status from UNBELIEVER to BELIEVER.

Romans 9:8

He turns you into someone who can love and be loved, like Him…

So who does God say that you are? I’ve shared who HE WANTS to say that you are… But He has given you and me the free will to choose…

so that choice up to you.

There are only two possibilities…

* UNBELIEVER or BELIEVER.
* Condemned or not condemned.
* Child of the flesh or a child of God.

So the important question is before you today… who have you chosen to be?

God and all of us are praying and waiting that you will choose to be a child of God today.

If you need to make that choice, I invite you to come and kneel at an altar and talk to Him now…

Resume - Romans 8:14-17

At this time, we are going to change the order of the service…

I invite you now to take bread and the cup that is in the rack of the chair in front of you, and partake in communion as part of the family of God, with God’s Holy Children.

Let us pray for the elements

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (Bread)

1 Corinthians 11:25 (Blood)

1 Corinthians 11:26 (Obediently awaiting the immanent return of Jesus, to do what?) Rapture His Church, take the family of God home.

When? Revelation 3:10

*“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep youfrom the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole worldto testthe inhabitants of the earth.”*

God wants His children to be certain that we are ready for that day that the Scripture says will come like a “thief in the night”.

One of my favorites is found in 1 Peter 1:2-3

1. God, through His foreknowledge knows who truly, genuinely and faithfully has been adopted into His Family. how?
2. Through the sanctifying work of the Spirit… And what is the Spirit’s mission?
3. To “set us apart (from the rest of the world) unto God” to grow us in obedience to God’s Holy Word. To be and speak the “Good News” of Jesus Christ to others.

We’ll stop there… I hope that answers the question… “Who does God say that I am”.

We’ll do our best to answer the other two questions next week…

* What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
* What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

So until next time:

24“‘“The Lord bless you  
    and keep you;   
25the Lord make his face shine on you  
    and be gracious to you;   
26the Lord turn his facetoward you  
    and give you peace.”