"THE COMING OF CHRIST"
June 25, 2023
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

As Bill stated at the beginning of his message on Sunday:
The world as we know it is coming to an end, thank the Lord.
The big question is this: **will you be on the right side of history, when it comes?**

Paul Answers Their Concerns About Dead Believers (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those
who sleep in Jesus.
15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who
are asleep.
16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the
Lord.
18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

4:13 "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope."
Asleep in this context is a euphemism to Christians who have died.

I Thessalonians 4:16
For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.16

This tells us that Christians who have died willies up once again, and until this happens deceased believers we are told in
II Corinthians 5:8
We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/2CO.5.8 All I can think of is Thank you Father.

It appears that the Thessalonians misunderstood I thought that dead Christians would miss the event of the Rapture.
Paul then corrected this misunderstanding by teaching the dead in Christ will rise first.
I Thessalonians 4:16
For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an

archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.16

It contrast to unbelievers who grieve over the loss of loved ones, Christians who grieve over a fellow believer can do so with hope because of the future glorious resurrection
I Thessalonians 4:18
Therefore comfort one another with these words.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.4.18

4:14 Jesus' resurrection revealed what it will be like for us (Christians)
Thats why our hearts should hurt for those that aren't believers

Let's use the hypothetical escalator to Heaven, I can't imagine being on this escalator up to Heaven and also being next to the one going down to the depths of hell. While on this escalator I see people who were at my bar perhaps only one time or even those who were there day in and day out, as we passed each other knowing our destination apart from this escalator, these people looked at me and said I never knew, (Why didn't you share with me the Good News of Jesus?) What would I feel like knowing I didn't even try to share with them.

That is the reason I try to share with everyone so I wouldn't have to ask myself this question and if I saw these people headed down I could rest assured in the knowing I did share with them the Good News of Jesus Christ, and how He died on the cross after being tortured and crucified on the cross to PAY IN FULL the cost of my forgiveness from my sins.

We can read about His (**Jesus'**) resurrection in:
Luke 24:36-43
36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."
37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.
38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?
39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."
40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.
41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"
42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.
43 And He took it and ate in their presence.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/LUK.24.36-43

4:15-17

Perhaps you have been told the word Rapture isn't in the Bible, not in our English version of the Bible, although you can make that persons head spin, because the word Bible isn't in the Bible either. But Fact is The Greek word for "caught up" is harpazo (which means to snatch, seize, or take away). Harpazo was translated in Latin versions

of the Bible ...
The term rapture is derived from rapture, a latin translation of the greek term (The Vulgate reads rapiemur, another form of the same verb)

Paul referred to this in:
I Corinthians 15:51-52
51 Behold, I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1CO.15.51-52

5:1 Times and seasons mentioned together refer to the end times.
Acts 1:7
And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/ACT.1.7

5:2 The day of the Lord often signifies a time of God's wrath and judgment poured out in an uncommon way.

Acts 2:20
The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord .
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/ACT.2.20

Malachi 4:5
Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord .
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/MAL.4.5

II Peter 3:10
But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/2PE.3.10

We are told it will come unexpectedly:
I Thessalonians 5:4
But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.5.4

5:17-18
17 pray without ceasing,
18 in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

"Prayers are not limited to place and time. If you are not in the right place to pray, you're not in the right place." Chuck Missler

My Final thoughts:
So to me, this should get us all as believers to be alert and be prepared and always to be ready for the coming of Christ any day, any time.
My mentor Pastor Manny told me once when I was still in the sin of this world, "If Jesus came back RIGHT NOW how would I want Him to find me?"
Understand I was still drinking alcohol and smoking weed, although I was already in a habit of reading the Bible, I still hadn't let go of the worldly sins that we impeding my progress as a Christian.

After several readings High as a kite, the Lord put several verses in my reading and being vigilant, be sober minded be aware be prepared…
Thank you Father for not giving up on this ratcheted sinner, Thats when I devoted my life to Christ and the Lord took all those sinful and unnecessary
Habits and or urges from me. That was over two years ago.

Short story, Dana and I when out to eat one night in Las Vegas and the table across from sat to men that were having a rather loud discussion, I had a hard time hearing them talk as the F-bombs were flying, every word made me squirm in my seat. Dana asked if that was bothering me and I told her what hurts the most is knowing that I was just like that before Christ changed my life.

Here are a few of the verses that stuck out to me:

I Thessalonians 5:6
Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.5.6

I Timothy 3:2
A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TI.3.2

I Peter 1:13
Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1PE.1.13

5:14 This is the spirit in which we should share our faith.
II Timothy 2:24
And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/2TI.2.24