Beam Me Up!!
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Introduction

I Paul's Desire For The Church
A. He does not want them to be ignorant: - Col 1:9-12; 2 Pt 3:18
   1. About those who fall asleep - Heb 9:27
B. He does not want them to grieve: - Job 19:25-27
   1. Like the rest of men who have no hope - Jn 11:35

II Paul's Doctrine For The Church
A. We believe that Jesus died and rose again - 1 Cor 15:12-20
B. We believe that God will bring with Jesus:
   1. Those who have fallen asleep in Him - 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23
C. We believe that those who have fallen asleep will not be preceded by:
   1. Those who are still alive - 2 Pt 3:3-4, 8-9; 1Cor 15:21-23
   2. Those who are left till the coming of the Lord

III Paul's Eschatology For The Church
A. The Lord Himself will come down from heaven: - Acts 1:11
   2. With the voice of the archangel - Dan 12:1; Heb 1:14
   3. With the trumpet call of God - 1 Cor 15:50-54
B. The dead in Christ will rise first - Eph 1:13-14
C. After that, we who are still alive and are left:
   1. Will be caught up together with them in the clouds - Gen 5:24; 2 Ki 2:11-12; Acts 8:36-40; 2 Cor 12:2-4
   2. We will meet the Lord in the air - Eph 2:2; 6:12
   3. We will be with the Lord forever - 1Thss 5:10; Jn 14:1-3

PERSONAL APPLICATION

A suggested response to the imminent return of Christ:
1. Make sure you are included in Christ! - Eph 1:13-14
2. Remember, you are citizens of a better kingdom! - Phil 3:20-21
3. Keep yourselves pure! You are the Bride of Christ!! - 1 Jn 3:3
4. Let the anticipation of Christ’s return inspire you to go BIG:
   1. Love God with all you heart, mind, soul and strength
   2. Love others as yourself (you really love yourself a lot!!)
   b. Serve God, His church and others with a glad heart!
   c. Don’t sweat the small stuff (it’s all small stuff!)
5. Obey the Great Commission and live the Epic Life!
   a. Share the gospel: Phil 1:6
   b. Make disciples: Matt 28:19-20; 2 Tim 2:2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAPTURE</th>
<th>SECOND COMING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christ comes in the air for His own</td>
<td>Christ comes to the earth with His own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translated Church-age believers go to heaven</td>
<td>Translated believers return to earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christians taken to the Father's house (heaven)</td>
<td>Christians come with Christ to establish an earthly kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>No judgment on the earth</td>
<td>Christ judges the inhabitants of the earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imminent -- could happen at any moment</td>
<td>Cannot occur until many events have transpired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time of joy and reward for believers only</td>
<td>Time of mourning and judgment for earthly humanity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occurs before the &quot;day of wrath&quot; (Tribulation)</td>
<td>Occurs after the Tribulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mention of Satan</td>
<td>Satan bound for 1000 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only Christ's own will see Him</td>
<td>Every eye will see Him</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Tribulation will shortly begin</td>
<td>The Millennial Kingdom begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not predicted in the Old Testament</td>
<td>Clearly predicted in detail in the OT</td>
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The chronological order of the resurrections:
1. The resurrection of the New Testament saints (dead/living) prior to the Great Tribulation (Jn 14:3; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:50-53).
2. The resurrection of the Tribulation martyrs who will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years following the seven year Tribulation (Rev 20:4-6).
4. The resurrection of the unbelieving dead who will then be judged at the Great White Throne judgment and cast into the lake of fire (Dan 12:2b; John 5:29b; Rev 20:11-15).

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