

I. Review

When we had our first meeting on the Patterns of Human Nature, principles for living, I started with an example about music. When it comes to music there is harmony to it. This morning, Kenzie sang the lead, and Danny complemented the lead by using the notes that blended with her notes even though he was not singing the lead. That was just two people, a duet. We could have had three people; a trio and Woody could have come up and sang the third part. He would have sung another complete set of notes that would have fit in, but would have been different than the other two.

Most of Gods people when it comes to the Bible, they can only sing the melody. They don't have the ability to transcend into the other chords and make it all blend together. They are good with the Bible, but they can only do the melody. They only have one ability. I want you to be able to transcend into every problem and issue. I want you to be able to take not just the lead, but to fit in so that everything that is done with somebody, you blend in with wherever they are at. I want you to be able to do with the Bible what you just saw these two people singing, do today. You have got to get to the place with your Bible that it is not just the melody anymore. You are able to transcend in the culture just like you transcend in the keys. You have to be able to take the verses that you know but have the ability to be able to move up into the next level with the people that you are trying to work with.

We are at an incredible place in our church. It is pretty special what God is doing here. Last week we examined four more questions that the unsaved world will throw at you when it comes to God, the Bible and Christianity. We got into Psalms 14 where the Bible says:

1. *The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [there is] none that doeth good.*
2. *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, [and] seek God.*
3. *They are all gone aside, they are [all] together become filthy: [there is] none that doeth good, no, not one.*
4. *Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people [as] they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.*
5. *There were they in great fear: for God [is] in the generation of the righteous.*
6. *Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD [is] his refuge.*
7. *Oh that the salvation of Israel [were come] out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, [and] Israel shall be glad.*

This chapter is where we have built these questions that fools are going to ask you. The aspect that a fool will say in his heart that there is no God. God looking down from heaven and seeing man's heart turned completely against Him. I have given you many illustrations to help you understand this. Last week I showed you 2 Kings 4:34 where Elisha gives life to a dead man. This dead man is a picture of an unsaved person and Elisha is doing one of the weirdest things in

the Bible where he crawls on top of the guy and puts his mouth to his mouth and his eyes to his eyes and his hands to his hands. I showed you that was a picture of us reaching people who are dead in trespasses of sin. Mouth to mouth understanding why unsaved people say the things that they do. Eyes to eyes understanding why unsaved people look at things the way they do. Hands to hands understanding why unsaved people do the things that they do. I showed you the idea of no God in a man's mind starts in his heart. Him being fooled into thinking that there is no God. I showed you several weeks ago the eight characteristics that define a fool in the book of Proverbs.

- ❖ He despises wisdom.
- ❖ He mocks sin.
- ❖ He meddles in other people's business.
- ❖ He slanders.
- ❖ Dog returning to his vomit – he keeps going back to his sin.
- ❖ His eyes are to the end of the earth, never satisfied.
- ❖ He resists correction and punishment.
- ❖ He trusts in his own heart.

II. A Fool Can Say There is no God, but Reality is at Death

A man or a woman will spend all of their lives denying the existence of God and yet will speak His name 100 times a day in cursing and cussing. The reality of life is you say there is no God. You ask all these goofy questions because in your heart you are a fool, and the fool has said in his heart there is no God. But you are flying at 30,000 feet and the airplane breaks apart and you start spiraling down to the ground and you got about six or seven minutes to think it through.

Last week the Jaws marathon was on. In Jaws, the opening scene is at a beach party where a teenage girl meets this guy, and they are both drunk. She goes out into the ocean to swim. She is a party girl. Then it happens! The shark comes up and grabs her. The last thing she says before the shark takes her under is, oh God, please no. That is the reality!

You can say all your life there is no God, but the reality is at death you are going to meet Him face to face. The greatest reality of life is death! This is where it all comes down to. The Bible says, "*As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*" (Hebrews 9:27)

When I preach a funeral, I always preach it out of Ecclesiastes 7:1-2. I know of no better place to put a sermon together to really get across to people the reality of death. I realize that when I preach at a funeral, I know what I am there to accomplish. I realize that there are some things that you got to get these people to see and understand. You know the basic outline. Solomon the wisest man that has ever lived says, "*It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that [is] the end of all men; and the living will lay [it] to his heart.*" *Ecclesiastes 7:2* He said it is better to be at a funeral than at a Super Bowl party because at the funeral the object lesson is right in front of you. Either the urn with the ashes or the casket with the body and the Bible says the living will lay it to his heart. You look at that casket, that body,

that urn and the Holy Spirit of God says someday you are going to wind up there and the living lay it to his heart.

So, I build my sermon around four things that Solomon tells us. 1.) There is a reality of death, 2.) there is a certainty of death. Then you switch gears. Even though there is a reality of death and a certainty of death 3.) there also is a hope in death, and that is where you preach the gospel. Then you take it, and you show them because there is a reality and a certainty in death, God gave us a hope. We are here today because this person was saved, and 4.) there is a comfort in death. The real key is getting the people to see that if the person who has died could speak to you right now, what would they say? There would be some things that they would want to tell us because now they understand some things they never saw before. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13:12, *“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face...”* We don’t see everything; we don’t understand everything. When death comes and the reality of you meeting Him face to face, it becomes crystal clear. That is true of an unsaved man. When you preach a funeral about a saved man’s life you preach it through that person’s death. But it is also true of an unsaved man, isn’t it.

➤ Luke 16 The Rich Man in Hell and Lazarus

We have the great example of Luke 16, the rich man in hell and Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham. Here is a man that died and went to hell and the Bible says he is tormented in this flame. And he wants Lazarus to come and dip his finger in water and put it on his tongue. Then he says I have five brothers. Five of them who if something does not happen and somebody does not get to them, they too are going to come to this place of torment. Then he asks Father Abraham to send one of the prophets to tell them what he refused to listen to because he was a fool. The Bible says he was a rich man. He fared sumptuously every day. Where Lazarus is a beggar that sat at the gate and the dogs licked his sores. He ate the crumbs off somebody’s table. But the great lesson for all of us in this story is who is really rich and who is really poor? In life it looked like the rich man was, but in reality, that was not the case. He says send somebody to my five brothers so that they do not come to this place. Father Abraham says, they had Moses and the prophets. In other words, they had the word of God. **If they are not going to pay attention to the Bible, they will not listen to somebody coming back from the dead. That’s reality!**

I want you to be that person that goes to those five brothers. I want you not to just sing the melody. I want you to be a four-part harmony **when it comes to the Bible so that you can mix and match all the chords of the word of God. All the principles and come out with a beautiful melody of God’s salvation to a lost world. That is the key!**

For the child of God that is a fool, your reality will be the judgment seat of Christ. For the unsaved man or woman who is a fool, your reality will be hell now and the great white throne judgment, then later in the lake of fire for all of eternity. Either way you are going to meet Him. This idea that an atheist or a fool does not believe God.....**Hey, you are going to accept God one way or the other.** The Bible says that every knee is going to bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). You are either going to accept Him now as a God

of love, your savior, or you will accept Him in that day of judgment. But you will accept Him! The reality is most of God's people and most of the world are living in denial.

III. A Prepared Heart

We talked about 1 Peter 3:15, "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*" Preparing yourself for the work God has called you to do. When it comes to the Christian life there is one key word that needs to be in all of our lives. It is the word **PREPARATION**. When you look at the whole armor of God in Ephesians 6:15 when he gets toward the end he says, "*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*" The job of every pastor, the job of every church is to get you prepared. Prepare your feet, prepare your heart. Proverbs 16:1, "*The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, [is] from the LORD.*" **What a great verse! We prepare our hearts in the word of God.** That is what we are trying to do right now. That is why I am taking as many of you as I can and getting done with you right now in the time that we have left. When you do that, you prepare your heart, and when you get into those situations, the answer comes from the Lord, through the Holy Spirit of God out of a prepared heart.

We had a great year at camp and practically everybody's life was changed. Jared who is our youth pastor here brought his brother Luke and his sister down to camp. Monday, I got this phone call from a guy on Labor Day. He said, my name is so and so and I am a friend of Luke's. I just spent a couple of hours with Luke, and he told me about the heresy of Calvinism. I want to go to my pastor and ask him these questions. He said, Luke told me that you could help me better understand Calvinism. So, for the next 25 minutes, I laid that all out. I told him what he was probably going to be up against with his pastor and I told him what to look out for. After I finished answering that question, he said I have another question. He said, Luke told me that the only real Bible is the King James 1611 Authorized Version. Can you help me with that? So for the next 40 minutes I took him through that. This is what I am talking about. Luke without even knowing it, because of what God did in his heart, we became a team. He got him as far as he could and then he handed him off to me. Together we worked as a team. Luke had prepared his heart and was ready to give an answer to any man that asked, the reason of the hope that was in him. That is what I want with you. I don't care what level spiritually you are on. You give me the right attitude of heart and give me the determination that you are going to stick with it, and I will get you exactly where God wants you to be. I must confess, for the most part, God's people are the most unprepared people you will ever meet. Most of God's people believe a lot of things about the Bible but they do not know why they believe it. They couldn't explain it if their life depended on it.

In the New Testament the Bible says there are seven things that a child of God should not be ignorant of. When you list those seven things out, almost every child of God you are going to meet are ignorant of them.

➤ Six Preparations for the Child of God

When you talk about preparing your heart in the preparation for things of God, there are **six great preparations for the child of God**. These things need to be in their life. Obviously the **first one is your preparation for eternity**, but we get that one out of the way once you get saved. The **second one** that most of **God's people are not prepared for are life's troubles**. There is going to be some negative things come your way as a Christian. There are going to be some problems that are going to pop up and some of them will cause bad choices and some come just because you are a Christian. My job is to help you get prepared for life's troubles. The **third thing they are not prepared for is marriage**. Most of God's people have no idea what a husband wife relationship really is when it comes to the word of God. That is why marriages fail. That is why women marry guys who they should have never married. That is why men marry women who they should have never married. They will meet someone and fall in love and just walk out the door when it comes to church or the Bible. They rationalize it by saying they are trying to bring that person to Christ. Well then, why aren't they in church this morning? What happens is that you get married for the wrong reasons and a couple of years later it all falls apart. The **fourth thing they are not prepared for is a family**. Families lose their kids all the time. They all follow the same patterns. They rationalize that I lost my kid, and it is so and so's fault or it's the guy or girl they married. They just spend their lives fooling themselves, that it is somebody else's problem. I know that I've got people in my church that work with me in ministry that you have lost your kids, but I have watched you do everything you need, and you never play the game that it is somebody else's fault. **The fifth thing they are unprepared for is the judgment seat of Christ**. The day we are going to give an account. Just so everybody is on the same page about the judgment seat of Christ. At the judgment seat of Christ, God is not going to hold you accountable for all the sins that you committed. You are going to pay for that down here in this life. When you get to the judgment seat of Christ it is only going to be about one thing. **God saved you and gave you the word of God, what did you do with it?** That is all! I believe at the judgment seat of Christ once reality sets in, there will be people screaming and crying and asking God for five minutes back on planet Earth to do what they should have done. But they will not get it.

What the word of God does for all of us, and it does many things, it keeps us accountable because it makes us look hard and long into the reality of things in life. Because human nature will always go the other way. Human nature will always rationalize it. Human nature will pick and choose out of the Bible what you want to believe. Human nature will always see the Bible as.... oh yeah, I believe this....., but I am going to do what I want to do. This is what I am trying to teach you. I want you to be able to deal with people's lives in four-part harmony. Helping them, but they must deal with reality, and we must deal with reality too!

The job of any pastor or any church is to prepare you for these things in life. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. So, as we go through Psalms 14, we are seeing our preparation to deal with the fools of life. Dealing with people who reject the Bible, reject God, and don't want anything to do with God, the church or Christianity. These are the people we are going to come across in the ministry. Most of you are ready to take that next step. It is not

complicated. It is simply teaching you to be smarter than the problem through the principles of the word of God. To be prepared to answer any man of the reason of the hope that is within you.

IV. Questions Fools Will Ask About the Rapture #9

Today we are going to look at just one question. I want to show you every aspect of this great doctrine and I want you to totally understand it. **You must understand this one yourself first or you will be the fool at the end of the day.** I am going to lay out for you one of the greatest questions today that has just popped up in the last 30-40 years. But it is prevalent every day, and if you haven't already, you will be faced with it. For you to answer it, you must understand it. You can't give one of these, well this is what Bob said, answers. You must understand this one thoroughly.

The new doctrine that is permeating through Christianity today is the Rapture of the church is not a Bible doctrine and there is no Rapture of the church. They will tell you that it was a 19th century Bible teacher whose name was John Darby. He is the one who came up with the idea about a rapture and that word is not found in the Bible. Let me say this about John Darby. He was one of the great Bible teachers of the 19th century. He would be on a level with Clarence Larkin. He was an incredible Bible teacher who believed everything that we believe. This one thing they will throw at you, and not only will you find it with unsaved people, but you will find it mostly from saved people.

➤ The Neo-Evangelical Movement

As Christianity got father away from the Bible back in the 70's, 80's and 90's we saw the beginning of what we know today as the Neo-Evangelical movement. I laid this out on Thursday night (10 Key Points in History, 9/5/24). Neo means new and we saw coming out of the 70's, 80's and 90's a new Neo-Evangelism. These were churches that had hitch hiked off the charismatic church that wanted to portray themselves as non-denominational. They thought being a denomination would label them and some people would not like to be connected with a denomination. So now they are non-denominational. They call themselves neo-evangelicals. They are so stupid that they can't figure out that the moment you say I don't want to be a Baptist, I am going to be a Neo-Evangelical, you just created your own denomination.

The goal of the Neo-Evangelical movement was to move away from any hardline Bible doctrine. Because it was doctrine that separated denominations. A Baptist will believe things doctrinally that a charismatic doesn't, or a Jehovah Witness or a Methodist doesn't. They moved away from all the doctrinal things, and everybody became one together. That was their goal. Their goal was to move away from any Bible doctrine and form a non-denominational mindset. That is why all the big Baptist churches have taken Baptist off their name and moved into the neo-evangelical mindset. As they went that way, they are all void of any truth. You will find these Bible colleges that support them like right here in Kansas City, we have Calvary Bible College, and Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary. But also, across the country you have Cedarville and Piedmont.

They raise preachers that after three or four generations know absolutely nothing about the Bible. Most of them are Calvinist. Back in the 70's, Calvary Bible College was fighting the movement of Calvinism. They never believed the Bible was the word of God and now they have raised three or four generations of preachers that know nothing about the Bible. So, you know what goes? Doctrine! Do you know which one of the doctrines goes? The Rapture of the church. These guys are standing in their pulpits today across this city and across this country and they will tell you that there is no rapture in the Bible. They reject the teaching of the doctrine of the Rapture in the word of God. The unsaved world will always reject it. But this is what I want you to understand because this is where you are going to have to do the work when you are going to be faced with it. God's own people have gotten so far out of the word of God, they have rejected it and for sure without a doubt it is one of the key main doctrines of the Bible. So, you must understand it. That is why I am taking the time to do this one by itself, so that when you leave here today you may not have it all down, but you are going to have the ability to get it all down. If you are in my Patterns of Human Nature class, I expect you to get it down. One of the stupidest things they will tell you of why there is not a rapture is because the word rapture is not found in the Bible. So, the Rapture is not a biblical thing. When somebody says this, it will show and prove to you that when you lose God's mind you lose your mind.

A guy asked me once. Do you believe in the so-called Rapture of the church? I said yes sir I do. He says show me the word rapture in the Bible. I said, let me ask you a question. Do you believe in eternal security of the believer? He said absolutely! I said, show me the word eternal security in the Bible. It's not in there! Do you believe in the Gap Theory or the Gap fact between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2? He says sure I do. I said then show me the word gap in the Bible. I said in Colossians 2 it talks about the circumcision made without hands. The operation of God the day you got saved. We refer to it as spiritual circumcision. Do you believe that? He said, yes, I do. I said, show me the word spiritual circumcision in the Bible.

I said, do you believe the Bible? He said, yes I do. I said, show me the word Bible in your Bible. You see how stupid this is. The idea that you can't accept the doctrine in the Bible because of the term that God's people call it is not found in the Bible. And because you can't find the term you reject the doctrine. This is what happens when you don't have a baseline of Bible truth in your life.

Now I am on a mission with this guy. This is a true story. This guy thinks he knows what he is talking about. I am going to make it clear to him that he doesn't. I say to him, what does the word rapture mean? That would be a noun in English grammar. I said, explain to me what a noun is. He didn't have a clue. I said a noun is a word that describes, identifies anything that is an object, a person, a place, a teaching, or an event. The word rapture means a feeling of intense pleasure and joy. It means the expression of pleasure and enthusiasm about something. Being totally overtaken by the love of something and the pleasure of something. For the child of God, the ultimate joy and pleasure should be Christ's coming for His bride. So, we base our love for Christ, the exuberance of Him coming for us, fills us with rapture. God's people who look and love His coming have called it the Rapture. I said to him, wait just a minute, I may have just found the reason you want to get rid of this doctrine. You are not looking for Him to come back.

Given your rejection of the Bible and truth, I get that!. You are living your Christian life with no love. I said, I can't wait for Him to come back. When I got up this morning, I thought for sure I wouldn't finish drinking my coffee. That He would be here already. I can't wait for Him to come back for me, and it fills me with rapture!

V. Building the Case Biblically for the Doctrine of the Rapture

Now let's go to the Bible and build the case biblically for the doctrine of the Rapture of the church. You can find out why we call it what we call it, and in the Bible what the Bible calls it. In the Bible you have seven mysteries that are given to the church. You have twelve mysteries that are given to the nation of Israel. Here lies the root problem. These guys couldn't lay out the seven mysteries if you put a gun to their head because they are fools. In 1 Corinthians 15 you are told that this Rapture, (what we call it because of the intense love we have for Him coming for us) is one of those mysteries. So, there is your first problem. God has put the Rapture in a mystery form that you can't get because you dumped the word of God.

➤ Three parts to a Harvest 1 Corinthians 15:20,23,24

Then I would ask him, what is the context of 1 Corinthians 15? He doesn't have a clue. So, I helped him out. The context of 1 Corinthians 15 will be the Christian life and his resurrected body. In this chapter you will find God's definition of what we call the Rapture. Based on us raptured with His love.

*But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.
1Corinthians 15:20*

*But every man in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** 1Corinthians 15:23*

Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. [1Co 15:24 KJV]

You will find that this Rapture as we call it, the Bible calls it a harvest. If you know anything about farming or about harvesting fruit, you will know that there are three parts to a harvest. This Rapture as we call it, the harvest as it is laid out in the word of God, its going to have three parts to it. You are going to have the Old Testament saints. They are going to be called the first fruits. You have the main harvest. This is going to be the church, you and me. You have fruit that gets ripe early, you pick it first and then you have the main body of the harvest, but there is a fruit that doesn't get ripe then so you have to go back and get it later. This is called the gleanings. That will be the tribulation saints. There are three parts found in verse 23 and 24. In verse 23 when he talks about this harvest, he says, every man in his own order and then he gives you the order.

➤ Come Up Hither

In the Bible you will find the term come up hither, three times. It is called come up hither and somebody goes up. The first time you will find come up hither will be Proverbs 25:7. This will be the Old Testament saints that go up with Christ's resurrection.

*For better [it is] that it be said unto thee, **Come up hither**; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen. Proverbs 25:7*

The second time you find it will be Revelation 4:1. This will be the church going out.

*After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither**, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. Revelation 4:1*

The third time you find it will be Revelation 11:12 and this will be the tribulation saints going out at the second coming of Christ.

*And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, **Come up hither**. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. Revelation 11:12*

One "come up hither" for each part of the harvest of the fruit. For me who can't wait for Him to come and love him with all my heart, knowing how He loves me, I am raptured this morning with my love for Him.

➤ The Three Harvests Match up to the Three Feasts in the Old Testament

These three harvests, which we call the Rapture, will match up to the three feasts that are found in the Old Testament of the gathering of the fruit at harvest time. You will find **the Passover is the first one**. That will be your Old Testament saints come up hither, the first fruits. You will find **Pentecost is the second one** that is the New Testament saints. The New Testament goes into effect and the Holy Spirit of God comes at Pentecost. There is the main harvest. Then you have **the third one** which is the Feast of Tabernacles which will be the tribulation saints. The feast of tabernacles marks the second coming of Christ, Revelation 11:12. which is the gleanings.

This is going to the Bible to study something that is a doctrine in the Bible without the stupidity of your higher education. Now you can see how they have no idea what they are talking about on a biblical level. This is my goal. I don't want you here, I want you smarter than the problem. I will get you to the place where you can handle fools like this, but you need to do the work. You need to learn this inside out, upside down, backwards, and forwards.

So many of God's people have such a disdain and hatred for the true word of God. They have been completely fooled out of the word of God. It has fooled them out of the great doctrines, the great harvest of God's people. All three biblical Bible groups. But for us the church who love Him, His word and His appearing, we can't wait to see Him. Did you know there is a crown that you are going to get for just loving His appearing? That you love Him so much you are sick of this world and everything that is going on. Sick of all the problems and heartaches that you just

can't wait for that trumpet to sound. Your heart is filled with the love of the rapture of God's love for you. But you my dear fool, you are living proof that you can't fix stupid.

➤ Two Key Days in the Bible

If you knew your Bible, you would know that there are **two key days in your Bible**. The **first day** which will be a key day, the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord will be God's Day, the second coming of Christ. You find it literally hundreds of times in the Bible. Each time the context will be the second coming of Christ. You will find this day all through the Old Testament. In the major prophets and minor prophets this day is sometimes called "that day", sometimes it is called "the day". If you get my book on **How to Study the Bible** out of the bookstore, you will see I have it laid out for you there.

The day of the Lord will be the key day in your Bible for the nation of Israel. The day God comes back and gathers His people, the nation of Israel back to Him and the start of the millennium. This day has absolutely nothing to do with or reference to the church age or Christianity. It's God's Day, the day of the Lord to Israel. The theme of your Bible is the day of the Lord, the second coming of Christ. The **second day** that you will find your Bible is built around will be **the day of Christ**. In Paul's writings to the New Testament church, you will find your second day. There is a great doctrinal contrast between these two days that you must see and understand. You need to see that this day (day of Christ) is dealing with the harvest of the church or the Rapture as we who love Him call it. The educated fools, the evangelicals, and pastors out there who know nothing about the Bible will tell you that these two days are the same. They will use them interchangeably. But these are the same idiots who will tell you that the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are the same. When you lose your Bible, you lose all reality of life. So now you are forced into a situation where you can make it up as you go along and decide without the Bible ever entering into it, what is real and what isn't real. Remember I told you on a Thursday night that in the Old Testament God has a wife and in the New Testament Christ has a bride, this is the two days.

In the New Testament in 2 Thessalonians 2:2 this is called the day of Christ.

*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the **day of Christ** is at hand. 2Thessalonians 2:2*

In Philippians 1:6 and Philippians 1:10 it is called the day of Jesus Christ.

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the **day of Jesus Christ**: Philippians 1:6*

*That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the **day of Christ**; Philippians 1:10*

1 Corinthians 1:8 it is called the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Who shall also confirm you unto the end, [that ye may be] blameless in the **day of our Lord Jesus Christ**. 1 Corinthians 1:8*

1 Corinthians 5:5 it's called the day of the Lord Jesus.

To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 1Corinthians 5:5

This day will deal with the harvest of the church. What we call the Rapture because we love him. It is laid out and defined for you in Song of Solomon 2. Here is your problem. These guys never think past this because they are fools. If there is no Rapture, if Christ doesn't come and get His bride, and you throw out the doctrine just because we as Bible believers use the word rapture, how does Christ get His bride? The answer is, they have no clue. All of these guys almost without exception once they reject the Rapture doctrine of the church or the harvest of the church, then you have to leave not only the Bible, not only the doctrines of the Bible but now you leave the premillennial return of Christ. You enter into the post-tribulation or amillennial return of Christ and you are dead in the water.

➤ All Bible Believing Groups Down Through the History of the Church Believed in the Rapture

The idea that this all started with John Darby in 1900 really says you not only don't know your Bible you have no clue of Christian church history. That is because as a Neo-Evangelical you don't have any history. You started in the 1940's and 1950's. All the Bible believing groups down through the history of the church believed in the Rapture, God's harvest based on their understanding the mystery found in 1 Corinthians 15:51.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed....

The Rapture came from their understanding the book of Song of Solomon. I taught this several years ago on New Year's Eve. There you see the love that God has toward us and the love that we should have toward Him. In Song of Solomon 2:10 you find the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for you and for me. He says, "...rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away" and we are gone! When you read how much He loves us and how much we should love Him I am raptured with overwhelming enthusiasm and love for Him.

In Revelation chapters 1-3 you have seven churches. In those first three chapters you find the word church 19 times and in Revelation 4:1 a door opens up in heaven. You hear a sound like a trumpet and a voice that says come up hither. Throughout the rest of the book of Revelation you never find the word church again. Do you know why? The church is taken out, raptured by His love. The loving bride is now with a loving bridegroom.

Fanny Crosby was a great hymn writer. She wrote over 8,000 hymns in her life. I think something like 2,000 poems. She was one of the most incredible icon Christians of her day. In our hymn books on page 255 is a hymn Fanny Crosby wrote called Blessed Assurance. Fanny Crosby was blind from birth. She never saw a thing from the human standpoint. Yet, she wrote some of the greatest hymns that you will ever sing. Many of them are in our hymn book.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

→ **Visions of rapture now burst on my sight!**

Do you see that? Fanny Crosby lived a hundred years before that Irish preacher was ever born (John Darby) and she is talking about the visions of rapture! You are a fool! She lived a hundred years before John Darby and though she may have been blind, brother, she sees some things that you can't see.

If that was not enough, in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica. Here again, this goes along with Song of Solomon 2 and Revelation 4, 1 Corinthians 15. You will want to get all these places worked out in your Bible because I want you to be able when it comes to the Bible, not to sing in four-part harmony, but to be able to teach four-part harmony.

13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

*17. Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, **(Come up hither)** to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. [1Th 4:18 KJV]

This is what we call the Rapture. The Bible calls it a harvest, a gathering. But for me and for any Bible believer that loves the Lord, loves His return, and understands Song of Solomon, we are caught up in the rapture of His love. For us it is the fulfillment of Christ's rapturous love for me. Not only do we meet Christ in the air (come up hither) we now see the great reunion with our loved ones which sleep in Jesus. The ones that died before us. We all get the great reunion Christ coming for His bride, His day, the day of Jesus Christ. Uniting all the believers of the church age together. Those that He has loved with an immense love, who should love Him with an immense love and that love is our rapture. We are caught up together with Him in the clouds. The reason we use rapture is because it will be total pleasure and fulfillment. Our enthusiasm our joy and our fulfillment of the rapture of Christ's love in our soul. Based on my fellowship

with Him and His fellowship with me which is laid out in Song of Solomon 1-2. Chapter 2 showing Him coming for us after in chapter one He showed you His great love.

Look at verse 18, *Wherefore comfort one another with these words*. It is our comfort through this life. I think it was Mark Twain that said this, although he was not a Christian, he looked at the things and problems in life and gave people his glimmer of hope. That anytime we go through something we should tell ourselves; this too shall pass. That sounds good, but for an unsaved man this too shall pass, but then you wind up in the lake of fire. There isn't much comfort in that. But for the child of God, whatever we go through in this life, whatever struggles, or mistakes we make, or problems that come into our life because we take a stand for the Lord, this too shall pass. The great comfort for all of us is that whatever we are going through, this too shall pass, because He is coming back! Whatever I am going through right now, it is going to come to an end. Whatever it may be will come to an end in **that day**. Some golden day break when He comes down and He solves all of our problems. You DO know what our biggest problem is, don't you? It's YOU!. It's ME! In that day, one glorious day, He is going to come back and take us all up with Him. Forever I will be with the one who died for me. What a day, what a glorious day that will be. I will be in a place where I will never say, think, or do anything that will ever displease Him again. I will fully understand why I used the word rapture to describe the day my Jesus comes for me. When I fully understand what He did for me and the depth of His love for me. This is why today, we need to have that love for Him.

VI. Summary

Folks, you are in a church that gives you more Bible than you can probably digest in a lifetime. If God has saved you, then God has called you for a job to do. Like I showed you in 1 Kings with Elisha. The Shunammite woman called for Elisha, but he sent someone else. But he couldn't get the job done. The great principle is this, you can't send somebody else to do what God has called you to do. My job is to prepare you, to get you ready. So, you can have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace and that you are ready to teach the Bible in four-part harmony. Making it all come together that you can give a reason to any man who asketh you for the reason of the hope that is within you. **You need to get this down.**

We need to work together, be a team like Luke and me. But you also need to be careful because the devil is going to try to put pride in your life. He is going to try to knock you down and get you to think you are smarter and more spiritual than others. He is going to have you look at other people and think you are better than them. You need to be careful. To whom much is given, much is required. You never want to forget the Solomon principle. He was the great king. He had all the wisdom of the world. But he looked at himself as a servant. You can't ever lose that attitude in your Christian life. **We are servants to each other.** *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.* Romans 15:1