

BEING RAPTURED AT CHRIST'S COMING

Introduction: In chapter four Paul gives some practical exhortations to believers so they might know how to walk to please God. First, due to the immorality in their culture, he exhorts them to abstain from all sexual sins and live holy lives. Second, some believers left their jobs, thinking Christ's coming for the Rapture was soon. This put a burden on the other believers to feed them, so he exhorted them to return to work to take care of their own needs. Third, there was confusion as to what happens to believers that die before the Rapture. Paul gives the fullest account of this event to comfort them. Paul wanted them to know how they "ought to walk and to please God" (1 Thes 4:1).

Lesson Aim: Exhort Christians to walk so as to please God and to abound in it more and more.

Verse: That you know "how you ought to walk and to please God" (1Thes 4:1).

Lesson Outline and Questions to Answer**I. Christian Conduct in the Light of Christ's Coming – 4:1-12**

1. What are Christians to do more and more? 4:1
2. What is the will of God for all Christians? 4:3
3. What should be the goal of a Christian in taking control of his body (vessel)? 4:4
4. What is the "lust of concupiscence"? 4:5
5. What sin will the Lord certainly avenge if a Christian commits it? 4:6
6. To what kind of a life has God called a Christian? 4:7
7. How does a Christian despise God? 4:7-8
8. What has God given Christians so they can live a life that pleases Him? 4:8
9. In what aspect of conduct are Christians to increase more and more? 4:9-10
10. How is a Christian to work? 4:11
11. Why is it necessary that a Christian work? 4:12; Eph 4:28

II. Christian Comfort in the Light of Christ's Coming – 4:13-18

12. What was causing sorrow among the Christians? 4:13
13. What happens to Christians when they sleep in Jesus?
4:14 -
2 Cor 5:1-4 -
14. Who is coming with Jesus at the Rapture? 4:14
15. Who will be the first to receive a new resurrected body? 4:15-16
16. Why will some Christians not receive a resurrected body? 4:17
17. What will happen to the bodies of these Christians? 1 Cor 15:51-52
18. What will happen to these Christians before they are taken to Heaven? 4:17
19. What should these Bible truths about the Rapture do for a Christian? 4:18
20. Why are church-believers the only ones taken to Heaven? Eph 5:25-27; Rev 19:7-9