

Pre-Tribulation Rapture: Why the Blessed Hope is a Blessing

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- a) Q: If Paul taught a mid-Tribulationist or post-Tribulationist view, would the thought of the upcoming Rapture really be that _____? (Matt. 24:21)
- b) Q: If we must endure this kind of tribulation, does it make sense for Jesus to say, "Let not your heart be _____"? (John 14:1)
- c) Q: Could you get excited about the Rapture if you knew that you had to endure a time on earth when all the 19 _____ of Revelation 6 to 16 we being poured out?
- d) Q: Do you find any reassurance or consolation in a time when the Antichrist will be enforcing his mark and _____ and your _____ would be denied the right to buy or sell? (Rev. 13:17)

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- b) First, we would expect the Thessalonians to be somewhat thankful that their loved ones had already _____ and wouldn't have to endure the terror of the Tribulation. (2 Cor. 5:8)

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- c) Second, we would expect the Thessalonians to be mindful about their own approaching _____ in the Tribulation rather than sorrowing over their deceased loved ones.
- d) Third, we would expect Paul, in view of their grief over their deceased loved ones, to _____ them that their present grief was nothing in light of the future time of trouble that's coming.
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Next week we will begin to answer some question: 1) Isn't the pre-Tribulation Rapture view a recent invention? 2) Can those who hear and reject the Gospel before the Rapture be saved during the Tribulation? 3) What will happen to babies and young children at the Rapture? 4) Is it ever right to set a date for the Rapture? 5) Are there any more prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Rapture can occur? 6) Are paradise and heaven the same place (1 Thess. 4:16 vs. Luke 23:43)

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Conclusion: Until the Rapture happens... What difference does it make?

- God gave prophecy to change our hearts, not to fill our head with knowledge. God never predicted future events just to satisfy our curiosity about the future. Every time God announces events that are future, he includes with His prediction practical applications to life. God's pronouncements about the future carry with them specific advice for the 'here and now.' Charles Dyer, *World News and Bible Prophecy* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1995), pg. 270
- a) The Rapture Has a Converting Influence on Seeking Hearts
- b) The Rapture Has a Caring Influence on Soul-Winning Hearts
- c) The Rapture Has a Cleansing Influence on Sinning Hearts
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