

DISCUSSION GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING THE RAPTURE

Stand-Alone Sermon

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

ICEBREAKER: What sound drives you crazy?

OVERVIEW: There is much confusion surrounding the Rapture. What is it? When will it occur? What will happen afterwards? How can I prepare for it? But the Bible is surprisingly clear on the Rapture. In this discussion we will go deeper with the most important and in-depth passage about the Rapture in the Bible.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. How much did you know about the Rapture before Sunday's sermon?
3. Is the Rapture something that has scared you? Explain.
4. Was this sermon a paradigm shift for you in the way that you thought about the Rapture and the end times? Explain.

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
 - a. Who are "those who are asleep" (v. 13-14)? Who are the "dead in Christ" (v. 16)?
 - b. Who are "we who are still alive" (v. 15, 17)?
 - c. When will all these things occur (v. 15)?
 - d. How do we know that the Rapture will be open and public, rather than secret (see v. 16)?
 - e. What will happen to the "dead in Christ" (v. 16)?
 - f. What will happen to those who are still alive at the Rapture (v. 17)?
6. How should the doctrine of the Rapture affect the way that we live today?

The Last Word: "If there is a single doctrine that both excites and divides Christians, it is the Rapture." Gary DeMar

