



“Your Future in the Rapture”

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Don talked about the Tribulation and it was a great blessing to know all about...it's hard to say it is a blessing really. I mean it is a terrible thing to know that the world is going to get worse and worse and evidentially we are going to have this totally destruction on the earth. But there is a lot to be hopeful for about and that is why I am really glad that I can talk to you a little more about something called the Rapture and I will explain that. But I also thank the karate group that came in and demonstrated for us, the martial arts group. They are great, and I consider it my sport, I never did much in sports growing up.

When you read in the Bible the Apostle Paul he was a big sports fan too, and he used sports analogies all the time when he was preaching. And I am sure that if the time was you would find the Apostle Paul he is out in a toga at the Olympics or something like that, he would be there. In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul explained that sports competitors go into strict training, he says, “They beat their bodies,” literally they condition their bodies to be able to do the sports because they want to be the best. They want to win the prize.

And that prize at the time is usually just a crown of leaves on their head and about 15 minutes of fame. But Paul also pointed out that crowns the victories would not last long, being only leaves, and evidentially the victors would be forgotten. I mean really how many people remember the football stats of the year before, or the year before that? We forget these things. Well I have enjoyed martial arts, and I have enjoyed what our instructors have done, they have put us into strict training and usually my body afterwards, after each practice feels really quite beaten. But no matter how much I train and get better, and hopefully master it, I know that one day everything that I have learned that my body is going to age. And evidentially the skill set that I have learned I won't be able to use much any longer, and evidentially I will be too feeble to use them. And I am going to die, and you're going to die. And every single person in this room is destined for death. After all what are the two inevitabilities in life? They are one death, and two, and especially under this administration taxes. Yes death and taxes. That is very true. But is that true? I mean we know taxes for sure, but is death truly inevitable for everybody throughout human history? Well would you believe that the Bible teaches for one specific generation that death will not befall them?

Well look at what the Bible has to say about that generation. One of the or the I should say most, largest, biggest promises in the Bible that is talked about the most is that Jesus' promise, He says in John 14:3, "I will come back and take you to be with me." Let me repeat that again, "I will come back, and take you to be with me." Now that is amazing because the Second Coming, Jesus already came and it has been 2,000 years, but the Second Coming of Jesus is one of the most talked about things in the Bible. In the Old Testament there are about 500 prophecies concerning Jesus' coming back. And 1 in every 25 verses in the New Testament talks about Jesus. You can find that in Zechariah 14, and Matthew 24, and other chapters.

Now if the 300, there are 300 prophecies, general prophecies about Jesus coming the first time 109 specific, every single one of them happened. Jesus's birth fulfilled 109 prophecies, which is astronomical. Mathematicians have sat down and proven that just 8 would be impossible almost, to be fulfilled in one man. And yet Jesus fulfilled it. So if all 300 prophecies in the Old Testament were 100% fulfilled, what are the chances that the Second Coming prophecies will be fulfilled? I would say 100%.

Now let's try to figure out when this happens. Now the return of Jesus coincides, and Don was speaking about this earlier with the worst time in human history. It has a few names; the Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble, Daniel's 70th week, those are all a few names. But let me read you Jeremiah 37, "How awful they will be none will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it." Jacob being another name for the country of Israel. There is a time coming that will be the worst in human history, and it hasn't happened yet. Daniel 9:27 tells us when it begins, it begins when the new world leader, who the Bible calls Antichrist, makes a covenant, a peace treaty with the country of Israel and that it will last for 7 years. You can find that in Daniel 9, and Revelation 11, 12 and 13.

And it has three purposes for the Tribulation. One, God will pour out His wrath because of the evil on the world. Now this has happened before, the Flood, earth, humanity got so evil that evidentially God had to deal with it, He could not let all of humanity be spoiled and be evil. So God poured out His wrath on earth in that time and He said this will happen again when society becomes so corrupt that He has to come back and deal with that evil on the earth. Two He has to re-gather Israel back into the land and force them to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah. And not just Israel, but everybody on the planet things will get so bad. Have you ever gotten to a point where your life gets so bad that you cry out to God for help? And that is what this time is for. It is to get people to get serious about God, and especially His Son Jesus Christ. And three it is for the Messiah, Jesus Christ to return and fight and have victory and set up His Kingdom on Earth. The ultimate destination of the end of the Tribulation is for Jesus' Second Coming.

Now that terrible time of trouble, the Tribulation would be awful and there would be no hope if we had to live through it. And you've to think, why would God pour out His wrath on the people He loves, the people He calls His children. Well I can show you in the Bible that He says over, and over, and over again the Holy Spirit that those who have trusted Jesus as their Savior will not have to endure the Tribulation.

Let's look at Ephesians 5:6 "Let no one deceive you with empty words, because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient." Now who is the wrath for? It is only for as it says, "those who are disobedient." And who are those who are disobedient? You can find that in John 3:36 it says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. But whoever rejects the son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." God's wrath remains on those who have continued to reject Jesus' lifeline of salvation.

Or look at Romans 5:9 it confirms that believers in Christ will be saved from God's wrath; it goes, "Since we have now been justified by His blood. How much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him." Or how about this verse 1 Thessalonians 5:9, "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Awesome promises. And they keep going. 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "And to wait for His Son from Heaven whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who rescues us from the coming wrath." Jesus is the one who is supposed to rescue us from that wrath. Colossians 3:4, "When Christ who is your life appears then you will also appear with Him in glory." It is Christ who takes us. And where does He appear? To bring us with Him to glory. And one of the best ones, the best definition I would say is Revelation 3:10, best verse, "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently I will also keep you from that hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth." I will keep you from that hour of trial God says. And again, and again, and again in these verses Jesus promises that those who believe in Jesus and have called Him to forgive them of their sins and be their Savior will not experience God's wrath;

God's wrath from the Flood, God's wrath from the Tribulation, and God's wrath from eternal damnation. And those who have trusted in Christ will not experience that.

And we can see the examples of that in the Bible God has shown that He has done this in the past. Look at Enoch for example, Enoch was a man who lived before Noah, he said, "By faith Enoch was taken up from this life so he did not experience death. He could not be found because God had taken him away for before he was taken he was commended as one who pleased God." He was not disobedient, he was righteous. Now Enoch because of the long lifespan would have lived up to the Flood, but God took him before that Flood happened. Or look at Noah; Noah and his family were the only righteous people on an entire planet. And God removed them out of the deluge that destroyed the earth and reformed it and kept them outside of it. Or Lot when the two cities Sodom and Gomorrah and two others were so evil and so detestable that God had taken Lot and his daughters and wife and removed them from the destruction before it happened. He takes people away before He puts His wrath down upon anything. Or even Rahab when Joshua was surrounding Jericho when the walls came tumbling down. Rahab was saved from the destruction of Jericho. Her house was on the walls, if all the walls fell down probably a little sliver was her house and that is the only part that stayed up. God saved Rahab and her family just as He promised.

Now if Jesus promises to spare us from His wrath, those who have accepted His lifeline of salvation, then how is He going to do it? How are we going to do that? We can find the answer in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, and it reads, "After that we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever." Now let's look at that term; caught up. Now if you go back, the Bible you remember was written originally in Greek and Hebrew and Aramaic and if you go back to the original Greek the word caught up is called harpazo and when Latin came and they took the Greek and translated it into Latin, the only Bible for 1100 years was the Latin Vulgate you could only read it in Latin, they changed that word from caught up, harpazo, to rapio and so the englishized version of the Latin word rapio is Rapture. So I could say the great caught up or the great snatching away or the beam me out Scottie or something. But I am going to use that word rapio or Rapture just to make a one word thing and I am going to call it the Rapture.

God will rapture us from His coming wrath and we can find this in all sorts of texts in the Bible. For instance John 14:1-4, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there," says Jesus, "there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Well where is the Father's house? In lots of other verses it says that the Father's House is in Heaven, and that is the destination of those raptured. Those raptured from the earth are destined to go to Heaven. And this verse also tells us that we can trust God, trust that God will do this because He has promised that He will do this. Luke 21:36, "Be always on the

watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” Escape, here He says there is a way to escape this, and to stay watchful because Jesus is coming back. And once we escape those terrible times where will we be? We will be with the Son of Man, and another name for the Son of Man is Jesus Christ.

Let’s look at 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, “I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. “Now this passage gives a lot of good detail about what will happen.

For one our earthly human bodies, they just can’t hack the trip they are not powerful enough, not strong enough, they can’t go to Heaven. God is pure energy and light, He is spirit, and it would just melt anybody who looked at Him, and our eye sockets would go our brains would just overload with too much knowledge, so our bodies can’t make the trip, they can’t hack it. But they will be transformed and you can find that in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, “it is raised imperishable,” in other words the opposite of perishable like meat, have you ever seen meat, have you ever seen meat that gets perishable? It gets green and it falls apart, it dies. But this will be imperishable it will never rot, it will never die, it will be in glory. Have you ever seen a sunset and see the sun go up and say, “Oh that is so glorious.” Our bodies will be that way too. We will be raised in power, no more weakness or infirmity, they will be powerful. And they will be spiritually bodies, physical you can touch them and feel them, but they will be spirit powered by the Holy Spirit. 1 John 3:2-3, “When He appears we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.” So not everybody is going to die, there will be a generation who will skip the death process and experience what is called the Rapture. This verse also tells us that it’s going to happen very fast, it says in a flash, in a twinkling of an eye. All of a sudden, boom your gone, it’s out of there, it will be so fast, and a trumpet will be heard, it will be a noisy thing there will be a loud trumpet from Heaven. And it says that those who have died before the Rapture in Christ since Jesus’ was resurrected they too will be resurrected, they will be brought back from the dead. Because Jesus’ resurrection, Jesus’s victory over death become our victory over death, and these people will be resurrected too.

What is neat is that the transformation of our bodies means that our old sin nature, our human bodies that cause us to want to do bad things all the time, cause us to rebel against God will also be killed because when we get our new bodies that old sin nature will be ruined. So it will be the death of sin and the death of death, I mean that is just awesome. And with that death then there is no pain, there is no sting of dying, no fear of our loved ones who have accepted Jesus going through a painful death. And it happens just like that and it is a total transformation to something better. And that because we have this hope we can stand firm in Jesus Christ, our faith in Him is sure because by His promise we know that we are assured that Jesus will take us and we can trust Jesus in that, have faith in Him. And He also says while you are on earth do the good works, while you are waiting for me do something while you are waiting.

Well I can talk about the rapture all I want but why don't I show you a possible example of what the rapture would be like. This is a video from the Potter's Church, it is a Church in Australia and if you go to tangle or God tube they've got like a million some hit on this thing. It's a great video. (Vide- I have it transcribed in a show if you need it)

Every time that flash comes I still jump. I have shown this to a few other audiences and you always see them go like that. But it will be like that, it will be a lot like that I believe. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 will give us even more details about this, it goes, "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words." Now again this passage gives us a lot more detail about the Rapture will happen. For one it begins off the fact we have hope and knowledge that the Rapture. That God loves us so much that He is not going to leave us to be beaten up. Think about it, think about your parents, or your wife or husband or something. Let's say my wife, I love my wife, can you image if I beat my wife up for seven years straight and at the end of the seven years I say, "Honey let's get married." No way, she wouldn't even last one beating, I would probably get the beating, but that's not how God works. He wouldn't take the people He loves and calls His children and beat them up under His own wrath and anger for seven years before rescuing them. So we hope in the knowledge that God loves us that much that He is going to take us. And again is reiterates that Jesus' resurrection, Jesus' beating death on the cross and coming back from the grave, His victory is our victory so it enables us to be resurrected as well. Now again it tells us the dead in Christ they will be resurrected first. But again if it happens

like that, it doesn't really matter too much. They will first, we will be second who are alive, if we are still alive when it happens.

And that Jesus will come down to Heaven, and He doesn't come all the way to earth, it says, He stays in the clouds, He stops there and He receives those being raptured up to Him. It also tells us that there is going to be a large command from God's head angel, and archangel and it doesn't tell us what he says, but maybe he says, "It's time," or "Come on up." Or "Glory time." Or something, I have no idea, but he has an announcement to make, come up here, and there will be a trumpet too, a very loud trumpet. Now whether everybody will hear the trumpet or only the believers in Christ will hear the trumpet, I don't know but there will be a trumpet. God likes trumpets He uses them all the time.

So it also says that we will remain where He lives forever. Isn't that awesome! That means we get skip all of the Tribulation, all that death, all the rest our life in the torment of that, and be with God forever. Now Isaiah 26:19-21 tells us, there are little Old Testament hints to it, "But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You, who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See, the Lord is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer." The Old Testament reiterates that God's people will stay in Heaven where we read a little earlier where He is building those rooms for those believers in Him a place in Heaven while God pours out His wrath on the rest of the earth. Not to...in part punishment, but also to get them to say, "Oh Lord, I give up, I accept you to be my Savior." Or we can also read in Malachi 3:17, "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him." So those who are saved are the Lords. They are protected by a hand that cannot be conquered and we are... Isn't it amazing that God says He treasures us? That we are important to him, He is not some God sitting up on a cloud who could care less about our lives. But that He actually loves us, and He treasures us as worth something important. I mean think of something that you treasure in life, I treasure my family, they are important to me, I wouldn't let anything happen to them. Maybe you have a favorite toy when you were a kid, you still keep that around as an adult because you treasure it, it is important to you and you value it. And it says, "In His love He will spare what He treasures."

Now I've got another video this is another example of what it might be like when the Rapture happens. (video) Talking and music, police radio, vehicles, now as we bring out this new product for this new seasonscreaming.....

What I like particularly about that video was did you notice the audiences faces, the people who are just doing everyday things. Some of them looked terrified like what is

that, and others they knew what it was. Isn't it amazing to think that when that finally happens it will be like wow, finally it is what we have been waiting for all this time. And for others they will be puzzled and wonder what that is. Well you might have a few other questions about; we are talking about the people who have been resurrected that will be raptured from Jesus resurrection to now. But what about the people in the Old Testament, don't they deserve resurrection? Well the Bible says in Daniel 12:1-2, those people those who believed in God by faith and Jesus' blood covered their sins, they will be resurrected at the end of the seven year Tribulation. For those who die believing in Jesus' as their Savior during the Tribulation they too will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation. The Rapture is for the Church, the Church created when Jesus resurrected to all those who trust in Him today.

Well we are told to do three things while we wait upon the Lord. For one as we wait on the Lord we need to be watchful. Over and over in the Scripture we are told that we need to be watching for the appearance of the Lord. For instance Matthew 24:44, "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you don't expect Him." You are just not expecting it. Or Matthew 24:42, "Therefore keep watch because you don't know on what day the Lord will come." There are no signs preceding it to tell us when this will happen." Or Luke 12:35, "He dressed ready for service, and keep you lamps burning." Isn't that neat be dressed for readiness? Do you all remember back in American History the Minutemen they are the ones when the British were coming they could get out of bed in a minute, they were dressed, they could get there guns and be on the field in just a minute. Or what about your lamps burning? Today we keep the front porch light on, you know a guest is coming, your wife is coming home from work, or your uncle is coming to visit, or something really great you keep the light on. You are anticipating that somebody is coming, and that is what the Bible says here. We need to be watchful; we need to keep an eye out and living expecting that Jesus will come at any moment.

The second thing that the Lord tells us to do is to do good works. Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's workmanship," we are God's creation, what He created, "created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do." You know that age old question you hear all the time; "Why am I here? What is my purpose in life?" Isn't it great the Bible tells us what our purpose in life. It says while we are here in this little life span we are to do good works that God already created for us to do.

Somewhere out there before time God created me to sit here and tell you about the Rapture. This is one of the works that He has given for me to do, and I praise the Lord for it. Or also 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor is not in vain." The work we do, we put hard into serving the Lord and sharing the Gospel with other people has a purpose, it's not for no reason. There is a reason for everything the Lord does and sets up.

Third, this to me is one of the most important we can have hope knowing that Jesus will catch us up, that He will rescue us from the worst time in human history that is coming.

While we wait for the blessed hope the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Titus 2:13, again He says, "Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13. And again we know when He appears we shall be like Him, for when we shall see Him as He is, everyone who has this hope purifies themselves just as He is hope, 1 John 3:2-3. We have hope in the Rapture. We can have hope in God, isn't that amazing. And if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior you are now a child of God, you are part of the big title the Church, not an individual, a church building or a location but a body of believers that are brothers and sisters in Christ and children of God. And you also have hope in the Rapture and this means that you are going to beat death, you will avoid the horrors of the Tribulation to come by the Rapture and you will live forever in new bodies in heaven in perfect love and fellowship with your Savior.

Now if that's not hope, I don't what is. So I ask you have you taken that hope? Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? Do you know that God loves you so much that He will rescue you from wrath, that He will bring you to Heaven with Him and that He cherishes and loves you, because He does. And if you haven't accepted Jesus as you Savior, what are you waiting for a tornado? I mean you are probably waiting for something. It is not worth waiting for because you could die at any moment. Accept Jesus's gift of salvation say, "Dear Lord please forgive me of my sins and be my Savior." And you will be transformed and you will have a new life and a much better life to come. Prayer.....