



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 7, 2012

Heart to Heart...

You may have seen bumper stickers that state: *"In case of Rapture, this car will be unmanned."* The doctrine of the Rapture is taught in our religious world. Our radio and television airwaves are filled with the Rapture teachings. What is this teaching so many follow?

We need to realize that the term "Rapture" is never used in the Bible. The doctrine of the Rapture is when people will be *secretly* "raptured" (to snatch out) true believers on the earth. (That's what the bumper sticker is saying.) The Rapture teaching is where Jesus will raise the righteous dead, those righteous alive will be "snatched away" while the unbelievers and the lost dead unbelievers will remain. It is part of the teachings called "*Premillennialism*" which means that Jesus will not only "*snatch out*" the believers but Jesus will supposedly reign on the earth for a thousand years.

The term "Rapture" is derived from the Latin Vulgate version of I Thessalonians 4:17 where the expression "*caught up*" is translated by the Latin "*rapturo*." The English word rapture, though it does not occur in Scripture, is therefore synonymous with "*caught up*" according to this teaching. The Greek word used for "*caught up*" in this Scripture is "*harpazo*" and is tied directly to the coming of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures plainly teach that at the coming of Jesus, there will be a shout, the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first (I Thessalonians 4:16). Then those who are alive on the earth will be "*caught up*" to meet the Lord in the air and will always be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:17). ***This will not be secret!*** There will not be another resurrection or another return by Jesus at a later date to deal with the unrighteous. The Rapture doctrine is something that is taught as apart and separate from the Lord's return. Hal Lindsey, one the most well-known teachers of the premillennial doctrine of the rapture states: "*The second coming of Christ is different from and after 'the Rapture.'* We believe the Bible distinguishes between the Rapture and the second coming of Christ and they do not occur simultaneously." (Lindsey – p.131 – The Late Great Planet Earth) This doctrine teaches the world will be left with evil, unbelieving people for a period of time (7 yrs.) and it will be like no other in history. They teach that some will be led to Christ after this 7 year period.

There will not be silence at the coming of the Lord! There will not be a period of time between the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the wicked (John 5:28-29). There is not going to be a re-establishment of the Lord's kingdom on earth for a thousand years. When the Lord returns, He will never set foot on this earth and His children will go with Him to be with Him forever (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). When the Lord returns ONCE, the earth and its works will be burned up (II Peter 3:1-12). There will be no period of time where people will change from unbelievers to believers. The Rapture is a false doctrine that gives false hope and security of another chance after Jesus "Raptures" the righteous secretly away.

Many hold to the doctrine of premillennialism and the Rapture. We need to be disciples of the Lord Jesus and follow His teachings and not be led into some idea that Jesus will come more than once. We need to be disciples that observe His ways and His teachings in an honest and upright heart. We need to

guard ourselves against false notions that contradict the word of the Lord. When Christ Jesus returns, this world will come to an end and eternity for ALL begins. Think about it!!!

Brent