

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 22, 2011



## RAPTURE

by Johnny Ramsey

[This is only a section of a lecture prepared by Johnny Ramsey on the subject of “The Rapture and the Tribulation” for the First Annual “Fort Worth” Lectures, published in 1978 by Winkler Publications, Inc.]

The word *rapture* is not even in the Scriptures and the doctrine with that name is unscriptural also. The books of I and II Thessalonians, read honestly in context, forever disprove such a notion. Both epistles were written to the same people and discuss one major point: The coming of the Lord. Not one single time in the eight chapters of the two books do we see any indication of more than one coming of the Savior. No careful reader of the Bible could ever find all the comings and judgments the premillennial folk claim for their complicated doctrine. You would think--to listen to their theology--that Paul said to the Thessalonians things never found in the Bible, anywhere! In I Thess. 1:10; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:2-3 and II Thess. 2:3-12 and 1:4-10 we have the inspired record concerning the matter and not one verse teaches what the premillennial people believe concerning the rapture and the tribulation. Were it not false doctrine that has invented such propaganda such teaching would never have been known because the Bible itself does not include such matters!

Summing up the Thessalonian correspondence on the Lord's coming, Paul wrote these cogent points:

- (1) Patiently wait for His coming.
- (2) He will come as a thief in the night.
- (3) Christians should be comforted by the Lord's return.
- (4) *When* He does come both the ungodly and the righteous shall be dealt with.
- (5) Those who have died in the Lord shall be joined with the Christians still alive to meet the Lord in the air.
- (6) But, *at the same time* (Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; II Thess. 1:4-10) the disobedient will be separated (banished from the “presence of the Lord and the glory of His power.”)
- (7) Not one word is mentioned about 7 years of rapture for the saints and great tribulation for those remaining on the earth. This is a...

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

## VISITORS, WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4:15 p.m.

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...concoction of men and not a mandate from heaven.

The dispensationalist tries desperately to create a distinction between Christ's coming *for* the saints and His coming *with* the saints. Their favorite verse for this ploy is I Thess. 3:13 but it just will not work for the following reasons:

- (1) Many scholars believe that those whom the Lord brings with him ("the holy ones") are angels--not men--as II Thessalonians 1:7-9 portrays. Leon Morris, in his commentary, blends together both angels and the saints of God as present with Christ when He comes.
- (2) In Ecclesiastes 12:7 we learn that when we die our *spirit* returns to God and our *body* returns to the dust. It is significant that both Daniel 12:2 and Matthew 27:52 inform us that the *body* sleeps in the grave--not the spirit.
- (3) In Hebrews 12:23 Christians were informed that they were enrolled in heaven with "the spirits of just men made perfect."
- (4) Evidently, then, when we are raised (John 5:28-29) in the last day (John 12:48) our bodies will come forth from the grave and as we rise to meet the Lord in the air (I Thess. 4:17) He shall meet us and our spirit will be joined with our body. This *harmonizes* with Scripture. The rapture and tribulation theories *clash* with Bible teaching!

Dispensationalists proclaim that the rapture period is of seven years duration. According to this theory of theirs the saints will be at peace while sinners are in great tribulation on earth. But, the Lord Jesus Christ taught in two parables of Matthew 13 that there is no separation of good and evil until the end of the world. We should all carefully read the exciting lessons contained in the parables of the tares and the fishnet. Our Savior clearly stated that the righteous and the ungodly would dwell side by side until separated for all eternity into either heaven or hell (Matthew 13:30-50). In John (6:39-54) Christ mentioned that such would take place in the last day. There will be but *one* resurrection composed of both the good and the evil (Acts 24:15). An honest reading of I Corinthians 15:23-26 corresponds to this same arrangement where both the righteous and the disobedient are dealt with the same time--that is, *at the end* when Jesus comes.

In I Timothy 6:13-14 and II Timothy 4:8 we find powerful words that plainly teach us that the resurrection of the dead, the reward of the saints, the doom of sinners and the glorious appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13) occur at the same precise moment (I Cor. 15:52).

It has always amazed me that the premillennial people cannot see their inconsistency in regard to the Great Commission. The beautiful, compassionate challenge the redeemer gave his servants involves preaching the gospel to the lost "unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20). But, the rapture doctrine makes this impossible *if the saints are taken away seven years prior to the world's end!* There are so many problems in connection with the rapture and tribulation theories that sincere Bible students must be able to detect. This is certainly one of them! Jesus said He would raise up those who believe on Him *at the last day* (John 6:54). And, in both John 5:28-29 and II Thess. 1:4-10 the Scripture teaches He will raise up the ungodly at the same time. Since, clearly, there can be no other days after the last day the doctrines of premillennialism, rapture and tribulation fall into the dust of human error. One of these days, known only to Jehovah (Matt. 24:36) the end of the world will come. Only those who live and die in Christ will be prepared (John 8:21; Rev. 14:13). Others will not be able to stand (Rev. 6:17). What tragedy to die in error and thus be unprepared to sing the sweet song of redemption on the golden strand of glory!

Dr. Robert Strong gave this salient definition of the rapture doctrine:

“By the rapture is meant the sudden and possible secret coming of Christ in the air to catch away from the earth the resurrected bodies of those who have died in the faith and with them the living saints.”

However, according to Revelation 1:7 we learn that *every eye* will see the Lord when He comes. Yes, even the wicked ones who pierced the side of Jesus! There will be nothing secret about the matter. It will not be quiet either. In II Peter 3:10 and I Thess. 4 and II Thess. 1:4-10 we read of great noise, flaming fire and sound like a trumpet to accompany the Lord’s coming. Dr. DeHaan of Michigan once wrote a dramatic account of what will happen “at the rapture.” His vivid imagination betrays a lack of basic understanding concerning the nature of God. Paul wrote that “God is not the author of confusion” (I Cor. 14:33) but DeHaan’s doctrine was full of chaos! He said that one morning men would awaken to find wives and children missing and the highways would be filled with massive car wrecks because some parents, offspring and drivers would be suddenly caught up in the clouds while their sinful mates and co-workers would be left in great tribulation on the earth. That unscriptural jargon spawned the bumper stickers we often read:

“In case of rapture this car will no longer have a driver.”

Seems to me the highway patrol should refuse to license folk who believe such a doctrine. Error in religion makes people unsafe drivers!

In Ephesians 4:5 we learn that there is *one* hope in Christianity. Some today, however, hope for “God’s glorified earth” while others eagerly anticipate the rapture. But New Testament Christians hoped for heaven as II Cor. 5:1 and Hebrews 6:19-20 forever affirm! In I Thessalonians, chapter four and II Thessalonians, chapter one, to the same identical audience in each section--the Thessalonian church--Paul, by inspiration, wrote concerning the coming of the Lord. In the two chapters, the apostle deals with the saints, both dead and living as well as the wicked, who will, at His coming, be rewarded according to their deeds (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:6; Rev. 22:12). Paul informs us that *when* (adverb of time) the Lord comes He will be admired by the redeemed at the same time the wicked are being overwhelmed by the wrath of God. there is no place nor time for the so-called rapture (Heb. 9:27-28). The graphic wording and descriptive analysis of the Thessalonian correspondence vividly show that the righteous are not taken away before the judgment day but they are present with the wicked until the time the ungodly receive punishment at which time the righteous receive their reward (Rev. 20:11-15).

### April Kinney’s New Address

8661 Arkabutla Road  
Coldwater, MS 38618

### Help with VBS Supplies!

\*Drinks\* \*Snacks\* \*Chips\*

## Sermon Review

### HOW CAN I HELP VBS BE A SUCCESS?

- I. EXIST.
- II. EDUCATE.
- III. EXPEDITE.
- IV. ENTHUSIASM.
- V. ENDURE EXHAUSTION.
- VI. ENTREAT OTHERS.

### MURDER IN THE HEART

(Matthew 5:21-26)

- I. ANTIQUITY (21).
- II. ANGER (22).
- III. AMENDMENT (23-26).

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Caleb Baker** is scheduled to have a procedure on Wednesday to remove the kidney stone he has been battling for 3 months.

**Nora Boling** is in room 132 of the B-Wing of the Senatobia Convalescent Center.

**April Kinney; Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Chris Holmes. Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes** with full time mission work.

## Family & Friends

**Rob Dinklewalker**--Shane Staten's cousin, passed in his sleep Tuesday night. The Staten's have requested prayers for them and for others within Rob's family.

**Carla Carlson**--member at Nesbit, has requested prayers as she is being tested for potential serious health issues.

**Scott McNeer**--friend of Ginger's friend, he has cancer and may only have a few months to live.

**Waid Wilkes**, Father of Timothy Wilkes, Sr.--needs surgery.

**Jimmy Young**--husband of Stephanie's assistant, he has been having mini-strokes and not doing well.

**Trey Hanks**

**Gloria Angel**--Clifton's grandmother, seems to be doing better.

**Ray Maples; Hunt/Brown Family; Culbreath Family Richard & Pat Allen; Margie Verrell; Wilton Wooten; Clay Collums; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg; Brianna Edwards; James Angel; Steve Angel; Dave Leonard, Sr.;**

**Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.**

## May Anniversaries

Jason & Ginger Bayless	5/15
Johnny & Stephanie Bayless	5/23
Bill & Claire Easley	5/24
Jimmy & Virginia Sowell	5/26
Billy & Terry Bland	5/31

## May Birthdays

Dylan Moore	5/06	Brisa Davis	5/22
Rebecca Brown	5/07	Anna Johnson	5/24
Andy Ratliff	5/15	Davis Johnson	5/25

## Get Involved!

**Coldwater Door Knocking**  
June 4th--Get the word out about VBS!

**Sunday Night for the Savior**  
June 5--Bring Finger Foods & Contacts!

**Coldwater Trade Days**  
June 11--Signup Sheet Coming Soon!

**Coldwater VBS--June 12-16**  
6:30 PM Each Night--**ALL AGES!**

**SLCC--June 19-25--Session 2**  
Camp Applications in Foyer.

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, May 22

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Wiley Tuggle
Announcements	Andy Ratliff
Song Leader	Caleb Baker
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Johnny Bayless
	Jeremy Moore
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Jim Jackson
Opening Prayer	Jared Brown
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Adam Sowell

#### Evening

Song Leader	Caleb Baker
Opening Prayer	Jason Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jim Jackson
	Jeremy Moore
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

### Wednesday, May 25

Song Leader	Caleb Baker
Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jerry Davis