

The Vanishing Point

What Is *The Rapture*?

Definition: *the state or experience of being carried away*

“Rapture” in the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (Acts 8:39; 2 Corinthians 12:2-4)—

Five Aspects of *The Rapture* in 1 Thessalonians 4:

1. (v. 16) Return
2. (v. 16) Resurrection
3. (v. 17) Rapture
4. (v. 17) Reunion
5. (v. 18) Reassurance

Could Christ Return *Today*?

The *Blessed Hope* of the Early Church (Titus 2:11-13; James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 4:7; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 2:18; Revelation 1:1)

Three Possible Timelines for Christ’s Return

Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Mid-Tribulation Rapture

Post-Tribulation Rapture

The Promise of Revelation 3:10—

What If It’s *True*?

Three Responses from Romans 13:11-14:

Response #1: Wake up! (v. 11)—

Response #2: Cast off! (vv. 12-13)—

Response #3: Put on! (v. 14)—

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MAY 26-JUNE 1

Follow-throughs

Monday

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

a) What is the greatest “mystery” you’ve experienced? b) The Apostle Paul talks about a “mystery” (v. 51). How would you summarize that mystery in your own words? c) What do you think the Rapture has to do with this mystery? d) How should this mystery encourage you to live your life (v. 58)?

Tuesday

1 John 3:1-3

a) Which of your parents do people say you most resemble? b) In what ways do you think you resemble God your Father? c) How do you think seeing Jesus will make you more like Him? d) How does fixing your hope on the Rapture purify you?

Wednesday

2 Peter 3:1-9

a) Think of a promise you waited a long time for and never received. What happened? b) What is the delayed promise Peter is talking about here? c) What are the words Peter uses to describe those who ridicule this promise? d) In what ways are you holding firm to this promise?

Thursday

Acts 1:1-11

a) Perhaps one of the most embarrassing moments is to be told that something is none of your business. Has that ever happened to you? b) How does Jesus tell His disciples to mind their own business in this passage? What is it that is not their business? c) Instead of focusing on the Rapture, what should your focus be? How’s that working for you?

Warm-ups

Friday

John 8:1-6

What were the attitudes and motives of the people who brought the woman to Jesus? When in your life have you felt most ashamed or embarrassed? How have you experienced the healing of God’s grace in times like that?

Saturday

John 8:6-11

How did Jesus combine grace and truth in his response to that woman? When has someone shown you grace combined with truth?

Sunday

John 8:11; Romans 5:12 – 6:14

Jesus did not condemn the woman, but neither did he condone her life of sin. He told her to leave her sin behind. How did the apostle of Paul express that same balance of grace and truth?