

# “The Blessed Hope”

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Sunday, July 11, 2021, 10:30 a.m.  
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI  
Pastor Jonathan DeCou  
*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

**BIG IDEA:** We find comfort in The Blessed Hope of Jesus Christ’s return for His Church.

*“Therefore, encourage one another with these words.”  
1 Thessalonians 4:18 (CSB)*

## **The Premise of the Rapture. (v13, 14)**

- The Rapture is imminent.
- The Rapture is pre-tribulational.
- The Rapture is pre-millennial.

## **The People of the Rapture. (v14, 15)**

- Jesus Christ.
- The “dead in Christ”.
- We who are still alive.

## **The Provision of the Rapture. (v15a)**

- The Apostle Paul is speaking.
- He is speaking to believers.
- He speaks “by a word from the Lord”.

## **The Progress of the Rapture. (v15b-17)**

- The death & resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- There are those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- Jesus will descend from Heaven in the clouds.
- There will be an audible SHOUT.
- There will be an audible VOICE.
- There will be an audible TRUMPET.
- The “dead in Christ” will rise first.
- Those who are alive in Jesus will be caught up.
- So we will always be with the Lord.

## **The Promise of the Rapture. (v18)**

- The Blessed Hope of the rapture encourages us.

## **LESSONS: What are the purposes of prophecy?**

- Prophecy reveals the future.
- Prophecy demonstrates God’s sovereignty.
- Prophecy serves as a warning to unbelievers.
- Prophecy purifies believers.
- Prophecy encourages believers.

**BIG IDEA:** We find comfort in The Blessed Hope of Jesus Christ's return for His Church.

**READ:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**THINK:** Think about Paul's instruction about the Rapture, then ask yourself these questions: *What is something you had to wait for with anticipation as a child? Why were the Thessalonians confused about the rapture? How would you explain who is involved in the Rapture and why? On what basis do you believe the promise of the Rapture? What are the key events surrounding the Rapture? What encouragement do you take from this part of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians?*

**DO:** Think of one person who may need to be encouraged by these words of Scripture and then make plans to remind them of The Blessed Hope. Of the purposes for prophecy shared in this message, identify one or two of these purposes you may need to strengthen yourself in as you face the day.