

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:8-22

- 72, O come, O come Emmanuel
- 74, Come, thou long expected Jesus
- Sing we the song of Emmanuel
- The First Noel

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

Living and hoping in sharp contrast to those don't

1 Thessalonians 5:8-22

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

642 Ellen Lynn, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

(707) 485-7713 www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org



GRACE
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
love. truth. grace.

We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating.



**LET GOD'S WORD
LIGHT YOUR PATH!**

- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

Living and hoping in sharp contrast to those don't

1 Thessalonians 5:8-22

- November 26th, 2023 -

Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

Living and hoping in sharp contrast to those don't

1 Thessalonians 5:8-22

Last Sunday the Lord shined His light for our hearts on passages of gratitude and thanksgiving. One of those we enjoyed is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. That encouraging passage rests in the midst of a larger one, where the hope of the rapture, the Blessed Hope, is set in sharp contrast with the dark pall of suffocating spiritual and moral blindness and stumbling that people will find themselves in when God pours out His wrath on them in the Great Tribulation – known as The Day of the Lord.

In verses 1-7, the state of humanity is darkly and miserably portrayed in its shock and dismay during that period. Then in verses 8-22 Paul the prophet breaks out into bright sunlight and shows what it means to live in the bright and beautiful daylight of the Son of God. The contrast between the status and the joy of those who are in the sunlight versus those caught in the darkness and gloom couldn't be sharper!

All of this leads us as the Lord's own children of light, into to that light, to be illuminated and warmed by it, to be instructed by it so we can lead hopeful and happy lives in Christ our Lord. Lives that are spiritually and morally fruitful, meaningful and enduringly rewardable. Paul here raises and answers the question: What does it mean to live in light of the rapture of the church?

A quick flyover of the status of those caught in the Day of the Lord

Zephaniah 1:14-18 – Contrasted with 1 Thess 4:13-18 and the church being caught up to the Lord beforehand in the rapture.

V8, The source, attitude and armour of the saints in light

- Our source
- Our attitude
- Our armour

V9-10, Our destiny and our rescue!

- Our salvation here refers to more than forgiveness of sins, but to *physical rescue* from the Day of the Lord by *our physical translation and transportation!*
- V10, we won't die, but will live!

- V11, our response and the reason for regular gathering. Why? Because we forget these wonderful promises so easily! We need to be reminded and to remind one another regularly so as not to be seduced by complacency.

V12-21 are how the Lord wants these things to work their way out in our corporate lives together in the church, regularly gathered, and then dispersed to daily service and stewardship.

- V12-13, The Lord's flock in relation to Christ's undershepherds.
- V14, The one-another duties for which we are all individually and corporately responsible.
- V15, Redirecting ill intent toward good intent. (Training our intentions to see our brethren as God sees them in Christ, so that our attitudes and actions follow).
- V16-18, *Gratitude is God's explicit will for the Christian*, and flows from walking in the light.
- V19-21, Don't quench the working and moving of God's Holy Spirit, but do test what is said and done against the Word. Cling vigorously and assertively to what passes the test!
- V22, Willingly abstain, hold back from, every appearance or outward form or act of evil. Our life in Christ, in the context of conduct towards others and in view of the angels, holy and fallen, is not to be one of fleshly indulgence, but one of careful consideration of the effects of an act on oneself and those around them.

John Wesley's motto:

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

V23, the Blessing.