

**THE EMINENT RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**  
(The Special Transportation Vehicle to Heaven)  
Part III  
*1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Introduction: The quintessential enormity and certainty of the rapture of the church, as described in Scripture, composed of both Old and New Testament saints, is unprecedented in history. This laudable, capacious miraculous event will be the crowning conclusion to the life of a believer. In view of this eminent, impending, glorious happening, we should judiciously live our lives knowing that our “being caught up” to meet the Lord in the air could occur at any moment. The question is: “Are you ready to meet the Lord in the air?”

I. Rewards

A. God is keeping track of what we do for Him, and He is going to reward us for our effort. *Matthew 6:4.*

B. We can't earn our salvation, but we can earn rewards for service. *Matthew 16:27; Luke 14:14; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:8; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:14; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 22:12.*

1. Works will be judged according to an individual's attitude and motive. *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:11-15.*

II. Crowns to be won

A. The imperishable crown. *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:24-27.*

B. The prophet's reward. *Matthew 10:41-42.*

C. The soul winner's crown. *1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:19.*

D. Crown of righteousness. *2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:8.*

E. Crown of life. *James 1:12.*

F. Crown of glory. *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:4.*

III. The Grand Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

This is the time when the Heavenly Father presents His Son to us to enjoy the greatest feast and gala of all times. *Revelation 19:7-9.* This proves that special and elaborate preparations take place before the illustrious marriage is consummated.

A. We are told to be glad because the marriage of Jesus and His bride is about to take place. The bride is going to be arrayed in white linen, clean and bright, which represents the righteous acts of the saints. *Revelation 19:7-8.*

B. Who is the bride? *Revelation 21:2, 9-27.*

1. The church is male in gender. *Ephesians 1:17-23.*

2. The saints of God adorn the city with their imputed righteousness. *Revelation 19:7-8.*

3. At this time we will come before our Savior and Lord and cast our crowns and rewards at His feet, acknowledging Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. *Revelation 4:10.*

Conclusion: The most salubrious, exhilarating time of our lives is waiting to happen! *Revelation 22:14* says, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.” We should be mindful that our works that we do for God now will help decorate the New Jerusalem, the bride of our Lord and Savior. “...For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” *Revelation 19:8.*