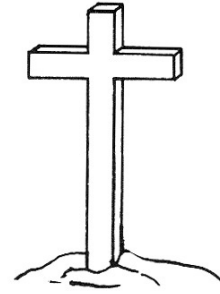


when the body is in the grave? When a person dies, the soul and spirit leave the body. This is the true person. When Jesus died on the cross, His body stayed on the cross until His friends put it into the grave.



Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Into whose hands did Jesus commit or give His spirit?

4. Jesus committed His spirit into God's hands. Then He breathed His last. Some translations say, "He gave up his spirit."

Read Philippians 1:21-26. Paul was in prison and he knew his life could end. He told what he thought about dying and living.

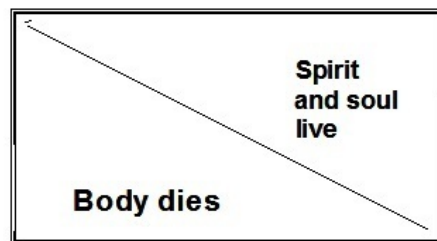
Philippians 1:23

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

If Paul died, with whom would he be?

5. If Paul died, he would be with Christ. The body dies, but the spirit and soul live.

The day is coming when the spirit and the soul will unite with the body. This will happen for the believers when Jesus Christ comes for them. This will be a very special time. We often refer to this time as the rapture. The word "rapture" comes from a Latin word which means "to seize and carry away."

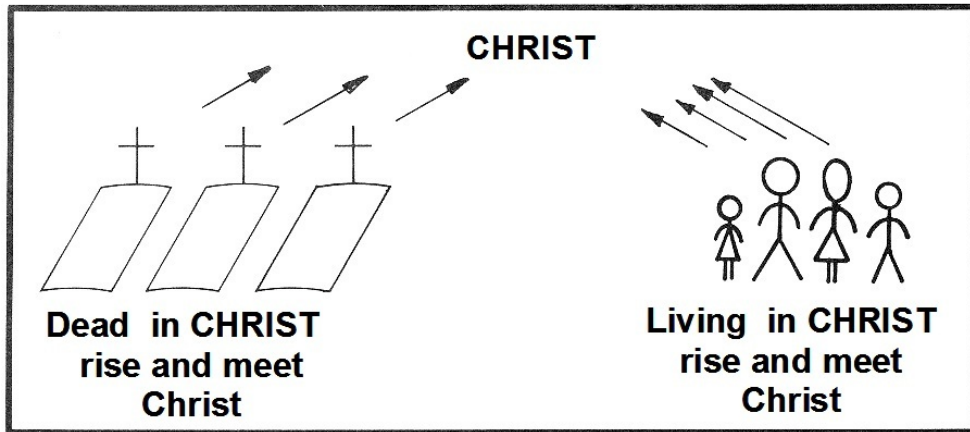


Some people think the rapture will happen before the tribulation. Others think it will happen during the tribulation time. Still others think it will happen after the tribulation.

Some even think that everything will end at one time. In this lesson we will discuss the rapture as happening before the tribulation.

What do we call the time when Jesus Christ comes for the believers?

6. We call this time the rapture. Jesus comes to take the believers home to heaven. We said that the spirit and soul of the believer go to be with



Jesus at death. The early Christians also were concerned about the resurrection of the body.

1 Corinthians 15:35

But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

What question did these believers ask?

7. These believers asked, "How are the dead raised?" **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. Read** these verses several times.

Who will come down from heaven? (verse 16)

8. Jesus Himself will come down from heaven.



1 Thessalonians 4:16

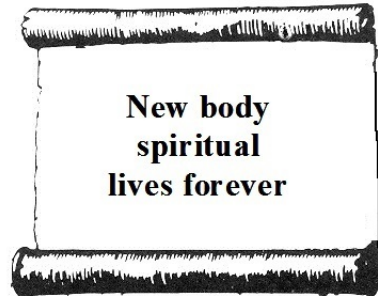
For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Who will rise first?

9. The dead in Christ will rise first. The soul and spirit will unite with the body. The new body is different than the old body which was put into the grave. The first body perishes, and returns to dust. The new body is spiritual and lives forever. It will never die.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.



What is the resurrected body like?

10. The resurrected body is a spiritual body. It lives forever.

When a believer dies, where do the soul and the spirit go?

When will the soul and spirit unite with the body?

11. When a believer dies, the soul and spirit go to be with Jesus Christ in heaven. When Jesus Christ comes again, the soul and spirit are united with the body.

When Jesus Christ comes, many believers will still be living. These will not die. Something special will happen to them.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

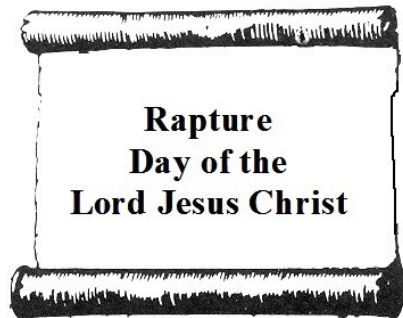
What will happen to the living believers?

12. These believers will be caught up or taken up in the clouds. They will meet Jesus Christ in the air.

With whom will the believers be?

13. The believers will be with the Lord forever. They too will have new bodies.

This day is called the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers look forward to this time. God promises to make the believers strong and keep them until the day He comes for them.



1 Corinthians 1:7,8

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

What is the rapture called?

14. The rapture is called the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul also calls it a mystery. He was excited about this time when Jesus Christ would come back. There are no specific signs to let us know when it will happen. Christ could come for His own any time. The Old Testament does not tell about the rapture.

1 Corinthians 15:51,52

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable (will not rot), and we will be changed.

What is this truth of the rapture called?

15. Paul calls it a mystery. It is a mystery because it had not been made known before. The believers look forward to this time when Jesus Christ will return to take the believers to be with Him in heaven. The believers should be strong in Jesus Christ as they wait for Him. They should think of others too and tell many about Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57,58

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

What should believers do while they wait for Jesus to come?

16. The believers should work for the Lord Jesus Christ.

When a believer dies, where do his soul and spirit go?

When will his soul and spirit be united with his body?

When Jesus comes again, who will be raised first?

Who also will be taken up to heaven?

17. Are you memorizing John 14:1-3?

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