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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.
Sonshiners: 4:45pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Power of God's Love (**Isa 53:4-6**)

PM Sermon

My Power in Christ

Sunday AM Bible Class:

D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series: TBA

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

BibleWayMediaMedia.org

Daily podcasts available on our website

The Oologah church of Christ only uses the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of the Bible in classes & sermons.

The Oologah Informer **July 25th, 2021**

ONE TAKEN AND ONE LEFT!

Toney L. Smith

Have you ever seen a bumper sticker that reads, “In case of the Rapture, this car will be unmanned?” Can you imagine the interstate highways suddenly having driverless automobiles? That is not a pleasant thought to me. And what about those who fly commercially? It would be disastrous if the pilot was suddenly “snatched” away! If the rapture was true, it would be best to make sure the pilot was not one of the faithful.

The doctrine of the Rapture is taught by a large number of denominationalists. As popular as this teaching is, the word “rapture” cannot be found in the Bible. The doctrine of a “sudden disappearance” has led many to embrace premillennialism, the false notion that has become popular even among some Church of Christ members. The rapture is supposed to be in direct relationship to a series of events that will culminate with the return of Christ and those taken away in the rapture. These things are said to bring about the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth with His headquarters being in Jerusalem.

The “rapture doctrine” finds its origin in the 1830s, when John Nelson Darby (11/18/1800 – 4/29/1882), a Protestant teacher, began teaching this idea to his followers. However, the misunderstanding about Christ's second coming is as old as New Testament Christianity. The apostle Paul penned two books (1 and 2 Thessalonians) that addressed the Second Coming of Christ. Ironically, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is a passage used to support this false notion. Hal Lindsey, a popular proponent of this theory writes about what a professor of religion will say on the day of the rapture: “I was teaching

my course in the philosophy of religion when all of a sudden three of my students vanished. They simply vanished!”

Many books have been written to prove the rapture theory. Edgar Whisenant, a former NASA engineer and Bible student who predicted that the rapture would occur in 1988, sometime between Sept. 11 and Sept. 13. He published two books that sold 300,000 copies.

Another of the so-called proof texts for this theory is Matthew 24:40- 41. Does this passage teach the rapture? Notice the reading: “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.” What is being discussed? What is the context of this reading? Please note that Matthew 24:36 through Matthew 25 informs us that we do not know when Christ will return. Therefore, we must always be prepared and ready for “that day.” Christ’s second coming will be His last coming. When He comes it will be to judge mankind. The apostle Paul explained what would take place at the Lord’s coming (1 Thessalonians 4:13- 18). He told the faithful Thessalonian brethren that “we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds.” We must now ask this question. What will happen to those who are not in Christ? The answer is obvious, they WILL NOT be taken! That is the message which is being taught in the passage under consideration.

Since inspiration tells us that we do not know when the Lord will return, there is a great need for us to be prepared for His second coming; “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come” (Matthew 24:42) and be ready for that day (Matthew 24:44). Paul admonishes us to be prepared for the Lord’s return; “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).

Even though the Rapture is a popular teaching, that doctrine does not stand on sound ground. A careful study of Scripture will show the “one taken and one left,” doctrine of the RAPTURE is not only false it is illogical. One “old” preacher said “it will not hold water!”