

**Strange Things You hear about the church of Christ part 6**  
**The church of Christ doesn't believe in the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ**

1 Cor 15:51-53

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Bible says about the end times & Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

Intro:

1. We all have heard and read many things concerning the end times.
2. Do we agree with false teaching or Bible teaching?

I. The "Rapture"

- "The word "rapture" does not appear in the Scriptures but the doctrine is unmistakably clear therein" – Dick Alderman, Baptist preacher (Dillon, SC)

A. Is it in **1 Thess 4:13-18**? – The "definite" scripture!

1. In this scripture we see the clarity of Paul.
  - What's the context of what Paul was teaching? He didn't want the faithful to have a false idea about faithful brethren who have already died (**v.13-15**).
2. It is clear that all (everyone-lost and save) will rise up to be judged.
  - All raised, all judged and then the separation of sinner (to damnation) and saint (into the heavenly home)
  - (**v.16b-17**) The dead in Christ who "will rise first" will be raised before the dead outside of Christ. Paul says they will go "first" not that they will be the only ones being raised.

B. Is it in **1 Cor 15:51-53**?

1. Again, keep in mind the idea of the rapture is that only the saved are brought up and not the lost.
  - With this in mind we see that such a teaching is NOT found in scripture.
2. Yet we see in both scriptures that it is clear all will be raised (**v.51b**).
  - All will put on bodies that are immortal (everlasting) the difference is where does that immortal body spend eternity? Thus all are raised but not all go to heaven.

II. The "Tribulation"

A. The premillennial requirements for tribulation.

- The first requirement is that there must still be an earth for this future tribulation to take place.

1. Earth- however it's destroyed at Christ's return (**2 Peter 3:10**)
2. John says he was a companion and brother in "the tribulation" (**Rev 1:9**) thus he was currently experiencing this tribulation (heavy persecution of Christians, **Rev 1:9**).
3. The tribulation was during the destruction of Jerusalem (**Mt 24:29**).

B. As seen in the Bible (**Mt 24, Rev 2:10**)

1. Those that lived during A.D. 70 experienced it (**Mt 24:3-21-v.36-44**)
2. Those who kept their faith through it would have eternal life (**Lk 21:20**).

III. The "1000 year reign" – the church is the Kingdom of God (**Jn 3:3-5**)

A. established on Pentecost even some Baptist preachers (D.Alderman & Charles Stanley) admit the church started on Pentecost.

1. They fail to realize the kingdom and the church are the SAME thing .
2. John again destroys this false teaching by saying he was ALREADY in the kingdom (**Rev 1:9** "both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom")

B. Was it Christ's original plan to reign on the earth (**Jn 6:15**).

1. If Christ wanted to be King, He could have been king.
2. Christ Himself said His kingdom is NOT of this world. He didn't mean His kingdom

wasn't currently in this world, He meant His kingdom was never of this world.

C. Armageddon-past or future?

1. Armageddon is not a reference to a specific battle but is a location.
2. Armageddon is an on-going battle of good vs. evil.
  - No purpose in an actual physical battle – **Eph 6:12**

Invitation:

1. What the accusation is actually saying is that we don't believe in a "denominational" view of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.
2. We disagree with their popular ideas so we must not believe in Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
3. Full invitation