

A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES

1st. Thessalonians

Chapter 4

I About the word "rapture":

A. The word "rapture", per se, is not found in the Bible simply because at the time of its translation into English there were no single words in the English language suitable for proper translation. Two words therefore were used; "caught up" (verse 17).

B. The phrase "caught up" in the original Greek was one word; "harpazo" (har-pad'-zo) and meant "caught up--" or "caught away--" "delightfully". The King James translators simply used the phrase "caught up".

C. The word "rapture" comes from the French language and means "transported in ecstasy". It more properly describes "harpazo" in one word but was added to the English language at a later date and consequently not used by the translators.

D. Examples of other French words that have been added to the English language in which one word may represent several words are:

1. "bouquet"="flower arrangement".
2. "banquet"="a sumptuous feast" or "ceremonial dinner".
3. "entourage"="a group of followers".
4. "entrepreneur"="One who undertakes to start and conduct a business or enterprise".

E. We will therefore use the word "rapture" on occasion in reference to the second coming of the Lord.

II Four different aspects of the rapture.

A. Christ's return to earth. This is a promise that we must never lose sight of. This promise is mentioned numerous times in the New Testament and remains one of the dominant doctrines of Christianity. Here are only a few scriptures to substantiate this truth.

1. Jesus said it.
 - (a) Directly to His disciples (Jn. 14:3)
 - (b) In His parables (Matt. 25:14-30)
2. The Angels said it.
 - (a) To the disciples (Act. 1:10-11)
3. The Apostles said it in the epistles.
 - (a) (1st. Cor. 4:5 and 11:26)
 - (b) see also 1st. Cor. 15 and 1st. Thess. 4:13-18
4. These scriptures are but a few of many.