

He comes. He's dead." But Paul says, "Don't you worry. When Jesus comes back Uncle ~~John~~ John's going to come with Him. You won't precede Uncle John; he won't precede you. You'll both be ~~and~~ raised up together." The resurrection is the great hope of the Christian. And when is this going to happen? Well, Paul does on with the next verse. He says, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"

The first thing that happens when Jesus comes back is, all those who have died in the Lord are going ~~to~~ to be raised up into ~~new~~ life again. They are going to come to life, and then, he says, "Then we who are alive and remain, will be caught up together with ~~them~~ them in the clouds, to meet the ~~our~~ Lord in the air; ~~and~~ and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." This is Paul's word of comfort. And alas, I've rarely at a funeral heard the comfort given to the people in the words that Paul said to use to comfort people when their loved ones die. Paul says, "This is the way to comfort people. Tell them that this one who has died is going to be raised up, and he, ~~together~~ together with those of us who may still be living when Jesus comes back, are going to be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. Now that's about as clear language as you could find anywher ~~in~~ in the Scripture. This is not a symbolic, involved, diffidult section of the ~~Scripture~~ Scripture. It's a very clear, plain presentation of a teaching. ~~It~~ And yet, church after church has gone ~~a~~ year ~~after~~ after year, and never a sermon on the ~~next~~ rapture of the church. Oh, how the Lord must grieve. He said, "All Scripture is given by ~~inspiration~~ inspiration of God, and is profitable." He wants us ~~to~~ to learn all the truths of the Scripture, and this one is ~~so~~ so clearly expressed here. It is important for us to know about the rapture of the church. And, my what an ~~experience~~ experience that's going to be. Won't ~~that~~ that be wonderful? One minute we're here, perhaps in this meeting, just talking. Perhaps sleeping in the middle of the night. Perhaps walking down the street. Perhaps in the middle of your work. All of a sudden, sometime, the Lord will descend from heaven