

# 5 10/11/72 chapel

1 Thess. 4:13-18

someone, You are saved. You don't know whether anybody is saved or not. If they truly believe in Christ in their hearts they are saved. But you can say all the words. You can repeat all the catechism; you can be the most orthodox person in the world and if you in your heart have not trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ you are not saved. And if you do trust in the Lord, if you truly believe in him you are saved. And many a man from a ~~pry~~/poor background, from a miserable background brought up in among habits and customs that have led them to have very low ideas on all sorts of things is truly saved and is growing in grace. And many a person from a wonderful fine Christian background with the finest of moral standards the finest of ethical standards, the most gracious polite kindly manner, has heard all about Christ and rejected Him and says, We don't need Him. And they may not say it very loud and you may think they are lovely Christian people, but you look around as we go up and you won't see them because ~~y~~ they won't be there.

But we will be caught up together in the clouds -- all those who truly believe in Christ, and those who do not will be left behind. You can't judge by a person's character whether he is truly a Christian or not. The question is not what is your character. The question is what direction are you moving in. Those who believe in Christ are being increased in righteousness. They are growing in grace, and they may have a long long ways to go. And some of the rest of us who have not accepted Christ may be going the opposite direction. But some of these may be way up here, and some of these may be way down here. And yet actually if you compare the finest of us with the worst of us and compare it with the standard of righteousness which God's require, the difference is very small. Because H's standard is far beyond what any of us can actually reach. It is not where we are but what direction we are moving in. If we truly believe we are being sanctified and we are growing in grace, and we will be caught up together. And Oh how some people are going to feel. Some people who will not speak to some other Christian on account of some difference of doctrine. Some difference of rite or ceremony or form, and they think that other person is quite outside the pale. God wants us to stand for true doctrine. He wants us to present it. He wants us to help ~~pry~~ people get a correct understanding of the Word.