

teaching that ~~there is to be a rapture~~ the church ~~is~~ is to be caught up into the air to meet the Lord in the clouds--which is so clearly taught in I Thessalonians. The question at issue is whether ~~there~~ there will be circumstances that are recognizable to make it possible to tell when this will occur, or whether it is imminent in the sense that no one can say at any time that it either will or will not occur then.

The term "tribulation" is used ~~ix~~ in very different senses. Some take it to mean any time of persecution, oppression or difficulty. Some restrict it to a time of great difficulty that is to come at the very immediately b immediately before the return of Christ. Some prefer to use the term "wrath" for that period and think of the term "tribulation" as a period preceding the ~~wrath~~ wrath, when there ill be ~~ix~~ difficulties on earth, but not necessarily greater, and many that have been faced by Chns° through the centuries. Still others use the term "tribulation" to cover both what these would mean by "tribulation" and what they would mean by "wrath."

Teaching about these matters ~~is~~ rests upon scattered statements in the Word of God, and is never outlined in precise, clear, simple language. Therefore a great variety of opinion opinions of guessing is possible. There is no harm in guessing, but it is unfortunate when guesses are given dogmatically instead of being labeled as guesses.

In this, as in any ~~other~~ other subject it is well to find what can be stated with certainty. We should start from the known and move to the unknown, rather than the reverse.

Two ~~assertions~~ assertions can be made with definiteness. One is that a rapture of the church is very clearly in I Thessalonians. All true believers are to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. There is no statement in this passage as to the conditions immediately before or as to what is immediately to follow. The only ~~thing that is positive~~

~~suggests~~ suggestion in this regard in this