

using the word in its original sense of being snatched away. This vital portion of the events connected with the Second Coming of Christ, so clearly described in I Thessalonians, is a glorious expectation for all who have received Him as their Saviour. What a shame it is that many Christians are not even aware of this wonderful event that is ahead.

Paul continues with the words, "so shall we ever be with the Lord." In this passage he does not tell what is the next event after the Rapture. He describes this as part of the Lord's coming, but it is a part in which, instead of the Lord's actually coming to the earth, the believers are caught up to meet Him in the clouds.

It is interesting that Paul does not end with the words, "Then we shall be joined with Him in judging the rest of the world." Nor does he say, "Then we shall come back to earth with Him." Both of these are events that are to occur, but the fact that Paul does not mention them at this place certainly leaves open the possibility that there may be a period of time between this event and the time when they happen. Paul is here simply comforting the Thessalonians about those who have died, and assuring them that in the great Rapture of the Church the deceased Christians as well as the living Christians will participate.

What a marvelous experience that will be! Christ's coming is in a sense like a magnet that passes over a pile of soil in which little bits of iron filings are scattered here and there. As one looks at it, the iron filings are scarcely distinguishable from the soil in which they are mixed, yet as the strong magnet passes over it they jump up and are joined with the magnet. Such is the marvelous experience that awaits all who have accepted Christ as Saviour and are united with Him as their Lord, as one of the outstanding events in connection with the coming of Christ. How wonderful is this promise to which we look forward, the promise of the Rapture of the Church!