

*"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5*

## IS THE RAPTURE A HOAX?

By Pastor Steve Owens



Before the days of high-speed computers and Bible applications, a student of the Bible could pull out his handy *Strong's Concordance* and look up references for words he wanted to study. If he was curious about the word *worship*, for example, he would discover that it's found in 102 verses in both the Old and New Testaments. If he was interested in the word *crucified*, he would find it mentioned only 37 times in the New Testament.

But what would he discover when he looked up the word *rapture*? To his surprise, the word *rapture* would not be found!

Uh oh, could the *rapture* be a hoax?

The short answer is NO, the Rapture is no hoax. If you want to get technical, the words *trinity*, *incarnation* and *omniscient* aren't in the Bible either, but you can't deny their doctrinal importance.

### What is the Rapture?

Although the word Rapture does not occur in Scripture, the Bible clearly teaches an event that will happen in which believers will be "caught up" or "snatched away" from the earth to meet the Lord in the air. The word Rapture comes from the Latin word "raptus" meaning "to seize" or "to take away." The Greek word translated "caught up" is used in I Thessalonians 4:17 and Acts 8:30 where the Spirit of God snatched Philip away after the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. The word Rapture is a wonderful word to describe this "mysterious" event, even though the word is not found in your Bible.

### Where is the Rapture explained in Scripture?

There are two passages of Scripture that explain the Rapture. (1 Thess 4:13-5:11; 1 Cor 15:51-58.) In studying these two passages, there are five important lessons for us.

### Five Important Lessons

1. When Paul said, "Behold I shew you a mystery..." (I Corinthians 15:51), he was talking about an event that was not revealed to Old Testament prophets. Daniel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### IN THIS EDITION

**Article: Is the Rapture a Hoax?** ....1  
 April Bible Memory .....1  
 Newsletter Questions .....1  
 Attendance Matters .....2  
 Stewardship Conference .....2  
**Article: The Soul-Cleansing Blood of the Lamb** .....3  
 Monthly Events .....3  
 World Missions .....3  
 Central Baptist in Pictures .....4  
 Quotes from DL Moody .....4  
 Weekly Bible Study Topics .....4

### APRIL BIBLE MEMORY



*"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

**Acts 20:35**



### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

Please send newsletter comments, questions or suggestions to:

**CentralConnection@mail.com**

# IS THE RAPTURE A HOAX?

(Continued from page 1)

prophesied a bodily resurrection, but he never spoke about a glorification of believers who never die. "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:2).

2. The Rapture is an event in which the dead in Christ will be raised and the living New Testament saints will be changed and glorified (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

3. The dead in Christ are presently with Him in heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:14). The dead in Christ are not "sleeping in the grave."

4. The Rapture is the believer's hope (1 Thessalonians 4:14) and comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18). At this moment believers are looking for Christ and this is called, "that blessed hope" in Titus 2:13.

5. The Rapture of church-age believers is a source of encouragement and motivation to serve the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

The Apostle Paul makes it clear that the Rapture is imminent (Philippians 4:5 and Titus 2:12-13). If the rapture is near and can happen at any moment, it is a strong motivation for believers to stay awake spiritually and keep busy preaching the gospel to lost souls before it's too late. Believers cannot allow the cares of this world (Matthew 13:22) to sidetrack them from the importance of telling others about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

The Rapture will take place at any moment and when it happens it will be instantaneous (1 Corinthians 15:52). There will be no opportunity for an unsaved person to make a decision for Christ and offer up a "last minute" prayer of salvation for their lost soul. It would be wise to heed the admonition found in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "...**behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**" The Rapture is not a hoax, it's a true fact that should not be ignored. 🙏

**Attendance Matters...**  
**You Matter!**

Central Baptist Church of OC offers four important preaching and teaching services each week. Each service is different and each service is vital to your spiritual growth.

### Weekly Schedule

#### Sunday

9:00 am

Sunday School (All Ages)

10:00 am

Sunday Morning Preaching

5:00 pm

Sunday Evening Preaching

#### Thursday

7:00 pm

Scripture Scouts (4-12)

7:00 pm

Prayer and Bible Study

(Adults & Teens)

Watching services online may keep you informed, but it will never meet the command to physically assemble with other believers. (Heb 10:25)

Modern technology is a blessing and a curse. It is a blessing to those with debilitating illnesses or those who are forced by necessity to be out of town. At the same time, it can be a curse to those who are tempted to forgo a service just because they can watch as easily online.

If circumstances beyond your control hinder your attendance, by all means do your best to watch online and stay informed. Services are recorded and streamed live on ...



CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH of ORANGE COUNTY

## STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

*"Effectively Managing Resources for the Lord's Purpose"*

APRIL 19TH - 20TH

Sunday at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm 🙏 Monday at 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm

Five Transformative Sessions  
Two Experienced Speakers  
Over 100 Years Combined Experience in the Ministry



ABOVE: Samarah Nuques is excited to follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism.



LEFT: Samarah's family and friends attend her baptism Service on March 15.



Article by  
Shannon Ghelken

## THE SOUL-CLEANSING BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Do you remember where you were when you got saved? Can you remember how it felt to know your sins were forgiven and you were free from the weight of sin?

For me, it was August 2001 on my back patio in Mountain Home, Idaho. I had heard the Gospel and made a profession of faith, but I had no peace in my heart that I would go to heaven when I died. The pastor of the local church I was attending visited my house one evening and over homemade strawberry shortcake we sat on the back patio and talked about the Lord as the evening grew dark and the sun went down around us.

Eventually, he asked me if I was saved and I said I thought I was. He kindly explained to me that I could know I was saved for sure and showed me 1 John 5:13. We prayed together, for my peace of mind, and I will never forget the weight that lifted off of me that evening when I finally understood that I was without a doubt free of all my sin, all my shame, and all my guilt.

Years have passed and I have never again had to wonder if I am saved. My life truly changed that day. People who knew me when I was lost could see the difference. There were many sins I left behind that day and I have never returned to them.

While I am so grateful for that, as I have grown closer to the Lord, I have become increasingly aware that I am still sinning. My sins just look different now and are the kind that come in my heart and mind and only the Lord and I know about them.

It turns out that that kind of sin may weigh us down more than the outward sin that is easy to see. I realized recently in my morning prayer time with the Lord that the same blood that saved me, cleansed me, and made me whole is still pleading for me today. I pray every day for God's blood to cleanse me and to renew my heart and mind. However, at some point, it just became words that I was saying and not something I really believed was true for me anymore.

How precious to see that the same freedom I felt at salvation is available to me today and every day. I took a few moments to talk to the Lord and then accept the forgiveness that He has already given. It was just as sweet for me that morning as it was the first time I understood the power of the blood in my life.

If it has been a while since you have talked to the Lord and taken hold of the gift of your salvation, I hope you will take a few moments to do that now. We have been given such great liberty in Christ, and it gives us the strength and the joy we need to walk through the journey of our lives. Are you washed in the blood, in the soul-cleansing blood of the lamb? 🙏



A wealthy man watched a missionary nurse attending to lepers in China. He said to her, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." And the nurse quietly replied, "Neither would I. But I do it gladly for the love of Christ."

You can take an active role in the support of our missionaries by giving financially and supporting them through prayer.

### CBCOC MISSION COUNTRIES

- Belgium, Brazil
- China, Cocopah Indians
- Ecuador, Fiji, India
- Japan, Mexico, Nepal
- Papua, New Guinea
- Philippines, Thailand
- Trinidad/Tobago, Ukraine, and Zambia

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. **ATTEND:** Women can be a part of Phebe's Fellowship on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00. This group is vital in the prayer and support of our missionaries.

2. **GIVE:** CBCOC has promised to give \$134,000 this year to missions. Use this QR code for online giving.



3. **PRAY:** Remember to pray for our missionaries daily!

### Monthly Church Events

**Phebe's Fellowship**  
(Women's Missionary Society)  
First Wednesday @ 7:00 PM

**Spanish Bible Study**  
Second Wednesday @ 7:00 PM

**College & Career Bible Study**  
Third Friday @ 6:30 PM

**Street Preaching**  
Last Saturday @ 12:00 PM.



**\* Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary! \***  
**Spencer & Joyce Covert**  
**1976 - 2026**

**“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.” Psalms 95:1**



Submitted by  
Shelby Beverly

Today we relive some of D. L. Moody's special quotes about God's Word. Enjoy!

*“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.”*

**“The Scriptures were not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives.”**

*“I never saw a fruit-bearing Christian who was not a student of the Bible.”*


**“The more you love the Scriptures, the firmer will be your faith. There is little backsliding when people love the Scriptures.”**

*“When I pray, I talk to God, but when I read the Bible, God is talking to me; and it is really more important that God should speak to me than that I should speak to Him.”*

**“Read the Bible, my friends, as if you were seeking for something of value. It is a good deal better to take a single chapter and spend a month on it than to read the Bible at random for a month.”**

*“It is the people who never open their Bibles and never study the Scriptures who become offended and discouraged and wonder why they are having such a hard time.”*



**TOP LEFT:** Bro. Joel leads congregational singing.   
**TOP RIGHT:** Orchestra members play for the Lord.  
**BELOW LEFT:** Hymn singing highlights each service.  
**BELOW RIGHT:** Angelic harp melodies from Angelica.  
**LOWER LEFT:** Bro. Will beautifully brings piano pleasure.  
**LOWER RIGHT:** We sing to the Lord!



**THE SPIRIT OF FANNY CROSBY**

Fanny Crosby lost her sight when just a little girl, but she was not discouraged. Out of her tribulation came scores of the sweetest songs for the Church. Although she has long ago passed on to her reward, her spirit goes marching on. In her blindness she wrote this note of cheer to the discouraged:

Oh, what a happy soul am I!  
 Although I cannot see,  
 I am resolved that in this world  
 Contented I will be;

How many blessings I enjoy  
 That other people don't!  
 To weep and sigh because I'm blind  
 I cannot and I won't!