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Valley Church

December 14 & 17, 2023
Week 10 – Come Up Here! (Rev. 4:1)

Introduction:

Four Views on Revelation

1. The _____ view
2. The _____ view
3. The _____ view
4. The _____ view

Key to Interpreting the Bible: Interpretation is _____, application is _____.

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Greek *meta tauta* = “after this” or “after these things.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Greek *harpazo* = “to seize or snatch away by force.”

Three Important Take-Aways:

1. God has a _____.
2. God is in _____ control.
3. God's _____ have nothing to fear.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. When you think about the return of Christ specifically for His Church (the Rapture), what are your thoughts about this event? What different views have you studied or been taught? Do you tend to agree or disagree with the notion of a pre-tribulation Rapture? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. In the weekend message, it was mentioned that when we constantly interpret Scripture through an “allegorical” rather than “literal” lens, we are in danger of allowing Scripture to basically mean *anything* to *anyone*. Do you agree with this assessment? What is the difference between an allegorical method of interpretation and rightly recognizing that the Bible does sometimes use symbols, metaphors, analogies, etc. in making a point? Discuss...
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 as a group. Paul tells the Thessalonians to “comfort” or “encourage” each other with these words. Why is living with the expectation of Christ’s any-moment return a source of comfort and encouragement to believers? Discuss...
4. Jeremiah 30:7 is a prophecy about the future “Day of the Lord” or “Tribulation” for Israel. How does this verse contribute to our understanding of the Tribulation as being related to Israel specifically and not the Church (composed of both Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ)? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. Which of the three “take-aways” has the most impact on your life personally as you think about the last days and why do you say this?
 - God has a plan
 - God is in perfect control
 - God’s people need not fear
6. Close in prayer, asking the Lord to increase your spiritual fervor for participating in getting the Gospel out while there is still time...