



## ***What is to Come:***

### ***The Catching Up of the Church***

Steve Holdaway, LifeSpring Church March 15, 2015

#### **Revelation 4:1 ESV**

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

**Three Millennial Approaches:** Premillennial, Postmillennial, Amillennial

The "catching up" *harpazo*, which means "to snatch away" or "to catch up." (word, "Rapture," not in Bible)

**Four Rapture Approaches:** Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, Post-Trib, Pre-Wrath (after 6<sup>th</sup> Seal is opened)

1Thessalonians 4:15-18 *ESV* 15 *For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 *ESV* 50 *I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**What we can agree on: In the twinkling of an eye...**

**You will be given a new heavenly body. (51-54)**

**You will see death swallowed up in victory. (55-57)**

**You will know that it has been worth it. (58)**

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

## **LifeGroup Discussion Guide**

**Warm Up:** Can you remember a time when someone "dropped in" unexpectedly? Were you prepared? Was it awkward?

Do you ever think about Christ returning unexpectedly? Does it make you feel confident or nervous? Why?

**Rapture or Return:** Summarize the four approaches to the rapture. (See other side.)

What are some reasons to view Christ's return as two events: rapture and second coming?

What are reasons to view it as a one-time event?

**Going Deeper:** Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

How does this passage correct the false idea that we will be formless spirits or ghosts?

What was Paul teaching about our future bodily form in his three examples contained in 37-41?

1) Seeds 2) Animals/humans with different forms of bodies 3) Heavenly bodies differing in appearance

Why can't flesh and blood inherit the kingdom of God?

Describe how the "catching up" of true believers will be: sudden, selective, and not a secret. (51-53)

In what way is sin the "stinger" of death? How is the law the power of sin? (56)

How did Jesus Christ give us the victory? (57)

Why are your labors for Christ not done in vain? (58)