

## Be a Berean!

*The Bereans ... received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)*

[“Be a Berean” will regularly cover topics which arise during the “Acts 29” and “Lifted Up” Bible classes. Contact Franklyn Pfeil-- [liftedup@lockportalliance.org](mailto:liftedup@lockportalliance.org) --with questions or comments.]

## “Going Up...”

The word ‘rapture’ does not appear in the Bible. It is derived from the Greek word ‘harpazo,’ which is translated as “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17—

*After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Jesus described the rapture in John 14:1-3:

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

Note that Jesus says He will receive those who believe in Him to Himself; He’s not coming down to us, we are going up to Him.

Old Testament stories teach New Testament concepts. Lot, who believed in God, was taken out of Sodom just before it was judged. The story of Lot typifies God’s mercy towards those who trust Jesus Christ—those whose sins were judged when Jesus died for us on the cross.

Just as Lot was removed from Sodom, it looks like the church—made up of those who place their trust in Jesus Christ—will be out of the picture during the Great Tribulation.

## A startling revelation from “Revelation”—

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the book of Revelation consist of letters from Jesus Christ to the seven churches of Asia. After chapter 3, the church seems to have dropped off the face of the earth—never mentioned again in Revelation. Where did they go? They didn’t drop off, they were “caught up!”

In Revelation 3:10, we read—

*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.*

While many think that Jesus’ words in John 14:1-3 (above) indicate that the church will be evacuated prior to the start of the Great Tribulation, other sincere Bible believers place our ‘meeting the Lord’ after the Great Tribulation.

But Jesus left no way for us to mistake, or need to interpret, His very next words:

*Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"*

*Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" (John 14:5-6)*

Whether or not we avoid the Great Tribulation, the Bible teaches us that all those trusting in Jesus Christ will escape the Greatest Tribulation—eternal separation from God. Any way you look at it, those who follow Jesus won’t be ‘left behind.’

And that’s what “Rapture” is really all about--

*I will exalt you, O LORD,*

***For you lifted me out of the depths.** (Psalm 30:1)*

It is our fervent hope that you will **Be a Berean** by attending one or more of these Bible-based classes this week!—

“Acts 29” Bible Class—Sunday at 9:45

“Relationships”—Sunday at 9:45

“Everyday Wisdom for the Average Joe”—Sunday at 9:45

“Alpha”—Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

“Lifted Up” Continuous Bible Class—Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

“Beth Moore Bible Study”—Thursday at 7:00 p.m.