

March 1, 2026
I Thessalonians 4:9-18
Snatched

Principles And Practical Application

BROTHERLY LOVE First exhortation, flee sexual immorality. Second one, cultivate brotherly love. Both of these are put forth by the author as a horizontal aspect of Christian living.

Vv 9-10, brotherly love characterized by pure motives and conduct. God taught them to love one another. This love is agape love, the purest and noblest form of love. This love is not driven by appearance, emotion, or feelings. This love is made manifest through: hospitality, kindness, and sacrificial deeds. They were doing well in this area but Paul urged them to excel even more. Press on!

V 11, Quiet here is best understood as a life of **restfulness**. Adjectives applicable are such as: undisturbed, settled, not noisy. It does not portray a life of being silent. Be less frantic, not less exuberant (filled with or characterized by a lively energy and excitement). A person constantly on the move is frequently a bother to others and is somewhat distracted from his own walk with God. A believer who strives to be at peace with himself and God will be a source of peace to believers in the church. Gleaned from *Thomas L. Constable*

The overflow, outcome of **vv 9-12** is to win respect from outsiders and to not be dependent on others.

RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH This record of the Rapture is given for our hope and comfort. This record is concerned with the **saved** (followers of Christ) who are alive and those who have passed when the Rapture occurs. Even in the OT they knew this life is not all there is **Job 19:25-27**, “**But I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the end he will stand on the dust. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh. I will see him myself; my eyes will look at him and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me.**” One day every knee will bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. The lost will do so in judgement, the saved with great joy.

The dead in Christ will rise at the time of the Rapture. The Bible is not as clear regarding the resurrection of OT saints however most theologians today believe they have to wait till the end of the Great Tribulation. There will be several resurrections, some to eternal life and some to eternal damnation. God created all there is, He will have no problem reassembling the decayed bodies of the deceased.

Paul never set a time for the Rapture to occur, nor should we. It was imminent to Paul and so it is to us today. The thing is, be ready, it can happen at any moment. When the Rapture occurs all Christians will participate in it. No Jesus, no hope, know Jesus, know hope.

Application:

Paul wanted the best for the flock, not walking around cloaked in ignorance and surely not grief stricken because of the bad doctrine some were living under. By the way, a believer's grief over the loss of a loved one who was also in Christ is perfectly normal and acceptable. But it is entirely different for those who are lost in their sins. Paul felt that the rapture was imminent back then, he was comforted by this thought as we are today, it is closer today than it has ever been. Comfort one another with these words.