***Lesson Eighteen***

**1 Thessalonians 4:14-18**

**The Rapture of the Church**

**1.** In v. 14 Paul states two essential doctrines, ***we believe that Jesus died and rose again*** and ***God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus***. What makes the second doctrine so important?

**2.** In v. 15 Paul states the source of this revelation . . . ***this we say to you by the word of the Lord***. What does this mean? What was the source of Paul’s knowledge of this matter?

**3.** In the New Testament Paul reveals several ***mysteries*** from God. What does the word ***mystery*** (*mustērion*—#3466) mean? What other ***mysteries*** does Paul reveal in his letters?

**4.** In v. 15b Paul states that there are two classes of believers, ***we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord*** and ***those who have fallen asleep***. From what we learn in this passage (v. 13-18) is there any difference in the blessings that one group may have or experience over the other?

**5.** Did Paul count himself as one of those who would be ***alive and remain until the coming of the Lord***?

**6.** In v. 16a the first event in the rapture event is described . . . ***the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God***. What is significant about the description of the Lord’s arrival?

**7.** In v. 16c-17a we have the second event in the rapture passage . . . ***the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*** What do you observe as being significant in the description of this event?

**8.** The “rapture word” in v. 17 is the term ***caught up*** (*harpazō*—#726). What does this term mean in the context of this passage?

**9.** As stated in v. 17, what is **the end result** of the saints being ***caught up to be with the Lord in the air***?

**10.** In v. 18 Paul issues his readers the command to ***comfort one another with these words***. The command is a present tense command, meaning “to continually do” something. What is the purpose of this command.

**11.** There are 4 primary views on the rapture. Explain each.

 **1.** The **pretribulational view—**

 **2.** The **midtribulational view—**

 **3.** The **pre-wrath view—**

 **4.** The **posttribulational view—**