

Doctrinal Statement:

We believe in the imminent, bodily, pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ: that He will return prior to the seven year tribulation period to catch away His church, coming only in the air and He will come with His church at the close of the tribulation period to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom on earth, a literal 1,000 year reign upon the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem.

We believe that future events include:

- 1. The Final Generation**
- 2. The Rapture of the Church to Meet the Lord in the Air**
 - a. Christians Judgment in Heaven
 - b. Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- 3. The Seven Year Tribulation on Earth**
- 4. The Second Coming of Christ to the Earth with His Saints**
- 5. The Battle of Armageddon**
- 6. The Judgment of Nations**
- 7. The Millennial Kingdom**
- 8. The Great White Throne Judgment of Unbelievers**
 - a. Resurrection of Wicked Dead
 - b. Second Death
- 9. Restoration of the New Heaven and New Earth**
- 10. Eternity**

Let us study each of these points.

I. The Final Generation

A The Last Generation Prophesied

“There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.” (Proverbs 30:11-14)

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matthew 24:32-35). See also Mark 13:28-31 and Luke 21:29-33.

B. The Last Generation Church Described

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the

door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:14-22)

C. The Last Generation Exposed

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:1-8, 13).

Let us analyze these verses:

Verse 1 –

“**This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come.**” Would you agree with me that these are perilous times? Wars, AIDS, drugs, violence, crime, suicide, terrorists, disasters; the list goes on.

Verse 2 –

“**For men shall be lovers of their own selves.**” The god of self: me, myself and I. This is also known as the religion of humanism.

“**Covetous.**” Those who desperately try to keep up with the Joneses, loving the world and the things of this world.

“**Boasters.**” Those who can’t say enough about themselves.

“**Proud.**” People who take personal credit for what God enables them to do.

“**Blasphemers.**” Have you heard the name of God or Jesus Christ used in vain lately? Profanity is everywhere. Anything injurious to sacred things is blasphemy.

“**Disobedient to parents.**” Children in rebellion to their parents’ authority.

“**Unthankful.**” When was the last time you saw someone give thanks before a meal? Have you ever said, “Lord, thank you for my country, my job, my health, my family, my life, my church...?”

“**Unholy.**” People who are sinful and practice unrighteousness.

Verse 3 –

“**Without natural affection.**” Today we are more concerned about saving whales than we are about little babies. The abortion statistics are staggering. Some show more affection shown towards dogs and cats today than towards wives, husbands, children, neighbors, or friends.

“**Truce breakers.**” Breaking promises. Peace treaties have become an exercise in futility. Until human nature changes, man’s heart will remain prejudiced and filled with hatred.

“**False Accusers.**” Those who pin the blame on everybody else. Have you noticed

how much slander and lies are propagated in today's society? Notice how many people speak before investigating?

"Incontinent." This means a lack of self-restraint or chastity; seeking instant gratification for every lust of the flesh or eyes.

"Fierce." Violence in sports, movies, TV, between countries, factions, sects, etc.

"Despisers of those that are good." Any president our country has doesn't stand a chance against the vicious pens of those who hate capitalism. Godly men and women are condemned today as evildoers living on the lunatic fringe.

Verse 4 –

"Traitors." Look at all the Socialists, Leftists, and Liberals already in our government, selling America out.

"Heady." This means: to make a decision rashly; being headstrong

"High minded." Thinking of yourself to be better than you are.

"Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." Sundays have become a day of recreation, rather than a day of church attendance and service.

Verse 5 –

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Do you know of anyone who goes to church for an hour each week, then lives like the devil for the other 167 hours? Many say they believe in God but deny that He has the power to change their lives. Up to 80% of the ministers in pulpits today do not believe the miracles in the Bible are authentic.

Verse 6 –

"Silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts." You see them on TV, billboards, movies, in music, magazines, etc. Senseless slaves to lust, incapable of controlling themselves or saving themselves for their husbands. Thank God for those who are women enough to stay pure and virgin and keep themselves for marriage.

Verse 7 –

"Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." The monumental volumes of knowledge that have been accumulated have not helped man find God, nor the solutions to this earth's problems. Yet we're always learning more and more.

Verse 8 –

"Resist the truth." Jesus claimed to be the truth (John 14:6). God has said that His Word is the truth. When the true Word of God is preached today, there is a resistance to our yielding to that truth.

"Men of corrupt minds." The imagination of men's hearts is only evil continually. Who would have ever thought the Constitution would be used to protect pornographers and throw the Bible out of the schools?

"Reprobate concerning the faith." A reprobate is a scoundrel. Certainly religion has been rocked by scoundrels lately who appeared for awhile as Christian ministers.

Verse 13 –

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." This answers the question, "Do you ever think things will get any better?"

The Bible clearly says No! Humanism says man will save himself. God says man is in the process of destroying himself because of his sinful nature.

The signs of the times we've looked at here indicate that God is right. These are the Last Days! What should we do? Get ready to meet the Lord! Jesus said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh... Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." (Luke 21:28,32).

II. The Rapture Of The Church To Meet The Lord In The Air

Note: The word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible. It is a word we have chosen to describe something Biblical. Other words like "Bible," "Sovereign," "Trinity," or "Missionary" also do not appear, but nevertheless describe some truth. The word "rapture" is from a Latin word "rapio" which means "to snatch away."

A. Specifics Of The Rapture

1. Biblical Synonyms:

a. "Translated"

"By faith Enoch was **translated** that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had **translated** him: for before his **translation** he had this testimony, that he pleased God." (Hebrews 11:5)

b. "Caught up"

"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one **caught up** to the third heaven... How that he was **caught up** into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2 Corinthians 12:2,4)

c. "Resurrection"

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his **resurrection**." (Romans 6:5). Notice also the word "rise" in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

2. Characteristics of the Rapture

a. Christ Himself will come to the clouds to meet us

"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

b. The Lord will shout

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven **with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

He will also probably say, "Come up hither" (come here). "After this I looked, and,