

JESUS IS MINE AND I AM HIS (DWELLING AND RAPTURE)

Song of songs 2:1-17 (February 2, 2025)

1. OUR REST COMES FROM DWELLING IN CHRIST. (VV3-7)

Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

(1) Dwelling is not doing nothing.

(2) Dwelling is the way to recovery, restoration, and recharge for re-engagement (from being inactive to being active in life) through meditating on and keeping the Word of God. (John 15:9-11)

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Principle in dwelling in Christ through His Word: GETTING NOT THE LETTERS BUT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORD! (2 Corinthians 3:6, 14-18)

6 He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life. 14 But the people’s minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. 15 Yes, even today when they read Moses’ writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. 16 But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2. OUR TRUE REST WILL BE FOUND WHEN JESUS COMES FOR THE CHURCH – THE RAPTURE. (VV8-13)

John 14:1-3 “1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God: believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who

are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Rapture (being taken by force) examples in the Old Testament

(1) Enoch (Genesis 6:21-24)

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years.

24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

(2) Elijah (2 Kings 2:9-11)

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. 10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.” 11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

3. SANCTIFIED LIFE IS THE PRIVILEGE OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD. (VV14-17)

Titus 2:13-14 “13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What may be the reasons modern people spending a lot of money and energy in looking for a rest, yet end up feeling more stress and pressure in life?
2. What is the difference between knowing God’s Word as letters and knowing it in Christ by the Spirit?
3. What is the rapture and how is it different from the Second coming of Jesus Christ?
4. Talk more about and share your thoughts on the rapture of the church freely with group members. (Any questions?)
5. What are the foundations for Christians’ calling to sanctified life?

I AM INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS FOR MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- () Membership 101
- () Maturity 201
- () Ministry 301
- () Mission/Evangelism 401

OTHER CLASSES

- () Foundations for basic Christian doctrines
- () Fresh Start for starting my faith in Christ
- () How to do daily Quiet Time with God

NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR?

- () I would like to talk with a pastor to understand the biblical view on a subject.
- () I would like to know what it means to be a member of MBF (NVCCC)

ANY OTHER QUESTION? LET US KNOW, PLEASE.
