

Light In The Darkness
“Promised Return”

John 14:1-3

Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship. Christianity stands apart from all world religions because it is distinct in its very nature as being relational. Jesus did not come to establish a religion. He came to restore the broken relationship of humankind to God caused by sin, and He offers that to anyone who will believe in Him.

The promise of redemption is not a response to the choice of disobedience of Adam and Eve that allowed sin to enter the world. Rather, it was promised by the Father in eternity past. (*cf. Ephesians 1:3-6*)

John 14:1-3 is the foundational teaching of Jesus about His coming to take His Church out of the world and His work from His ascension to His return.

Christianity is relational because Jesus consistently encourages us in our relationship with Him and the Father. (John 14:1)

This principle is crucial for contemporary believers. We should not allow the things we see in and from the world to **trouble** us. The reason is because of who we are in Christ. (*cf. Ephesians 1:7-14; John 10:27-30*)

Christianity is relational because of the promises Jesus made to all of His followers. (John 14:2-3)

The words Jesus uses to teach the truth of His return is intentionally relational. By telling the disciples, ***“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you...” (14:2a)***

This assured the disciples and us, that Jesus was telling them the truth. This was not pseudo encouragement designed to distract the disciples from what was soon to occur. He would be going to prepare a place for them and all of His followers, and He will return for His Church in the future.

The Rapture of the Church

This section of Scripture is Jesus’ teaching on the rapture of the Church. Paul expounded this teaching in his letters to the Corinthians and the Thessalonians. (*cf. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)

Observations:

The Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ are two distinct and separate events.

The rapture precedes the Tribulation period of God’s judgment on unbelieving Israel and the unbelieving world.

The rapture is the “snatching away” of the Church out of the world prior to that horrific time of God’s wrath being poured out on the world. (*cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:10b; Revelation 3:10*)

The Second Coming of Christ is at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period when Jesus returns to destroy the anti-Christ and rescue the remnant of believing Jews. The establishment of the Millennial Kingdom follows this.

The Rapture of the Church is a “sign-less” event.

There will be no biblical “signs” that will tell us the rapture is about to occur. It is an imminent event, meaning — it could happen at any moment.

The Rapture of the Church is our blessed hope. (cf. 2 Timothy 4:8)

There is a reward for living in light of this truth.

Everything that Jesus said is true. If His words are true concerning the past, they are also true concerning the future. There is no biblical prophecy that needs to be fulfilled before the rapture of the Church. The Church is the mystery of God’s program that was once hidden but has now been revealed.

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Application Questions

What does this passage teach about Jesus’ love for the Church?

How will this truth change my understanding of my relationship with Christ?

How will this truth motivate me to share my faith with others?

Upcoming Events

Men’s Bible Study. Wednesday, July 31. 6:30 PM @ Kevin Hector’s.

TCT Anniversary Lunch Celebration. Sunday, August 4 immediately after service.
Watch for Sign-up Genius email for potluck contributions.

Women’s Bible Study. Begins Thursday, August 15.
Will meet every other Thursday, 7 PM @ C.A.S.T. building.