

The Rapture is a common term in Christianity but the word 'rapture' is not found in the Bible. The Rapture refers to the verses below that describe how Christians will be caught up with the Lord when it is time. Those Christians who are saved but have died will be raised up first. The Christians who are still alive here on earth will be caught up immediately following the dead to the Lord. The Rapture is Jesus taking His church out of this world to be with Him for eternity. The Rapture can happen any time and it is only God the Father who knows and determines when the rapture will occur.

1 Thess 4:13-17 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Matt 24:36-42 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two *women* *will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

**Discussion Item 1:** *How can you be ready for the Rapture?*

**Discussion Item 2:** *When can the Rapture take place?*

**Life Application:** *Identify how you can be serving God as if the Rapture would happen today.*

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**Helpful Definition:**

ignorant- A person untaught or uninformed; one unlettered or unskilled. (*Webster*)

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**Notes:**

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**Proverb 21:31** The horse *is* prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance *is* of the LORD.

**Psalms 119:37** Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, *And* revive me in Your way.