

FF Notes for Episode 8 - Hope of the Body of Christ

There is much more to know than that we will be in the rapture someday.

The global pandemic has taught us how fragile the systems of the world are. People are willing to give up their freedoms in return for safety.

Now we need radical faith and radical dependence on God.

When the New Testament epistles speak of “hope”, it refers to Christ’s coming (parousia) to gather the church... and to what comes after that. This gathering, also called the rapture is described in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. Philippians 3:20-21, not just going to heaven when you die. We are citizens of the kingdom with all its privileges. I John 3:1-3. Purifying ourselves in holy living is emphasized in many of the passages that refer to the hope.

I Corinthians 15:42-58 also reveals details of this. The mystery here in I Cor 15 that was never previously revealed is that in a moment the living shall have their flesh changed to an incorruptible body like his. It is not by works of ours, but by receiving salvation through Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 tells us how to receive that salvation.

2 Cor 4:17 - 2 Cor 5:1-10 tells us we, and all of creation look forward to this transformation. Mortality swallowed up in life. We will receive from the Lord for the things done in the body, whether good or bad. Colossians 3:23-25 tell us that believers who are members of the body of Christ will be judged by Christ whether good or bad. It matters how we live. I John 2:28 warns us not be among those who will be ashamed or shrink in fear at his coming. As glorious as the rapture will be, we will answer to the Lord Jesus Christ for how we have lived after receiving his salvation.

The cosmos itself will be restored, at least in part, to the conditions before the fall and its curse. The gospel of the kingdom is that Jesus Messiah will come to reign in righteousness on a restored earth from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. Our hope is not eternity in heaven, but that we will “ever be with the Lord” and “reign with him” as “joint-heirs”.

Ephesians 1:10-14 tells us we are sealed with the Spirit as an earnest money deposit guaranteeing his purchase of saved believers by the cross will be completed. Being sealed means that no one can unseal what God has sealed. He will redeem the purchased possession at the rapture. In Eph 2:6-10, it is by grace it is guaranteed that true believers who have received the gift of salvation will be there. We are saved unto good works. Works is not a dirty word! That’s our purpose and works will matter at his coming and there is great reward. We want to finish faithful!

Grace is much more important than works. The good works that matter are empowered by grace.

What will be the extent of the antichrist's empire? Maps show the extent of the Babylonian empire and empire of Cyrus. It was said that they ruled all the earth. That is the earth as it was known to those Bible writers. Jerusalem is the center of that world. It is the focal point of biblical prophecy.

We recommend the books The Mideast Beast by Joel Richardson and The Prewrath Rapture of the Church by Marvin Rosenthal.

The best motivation is to love doing the Father's will. Love the Master. Love what he loves. Love to do what pleases him. Think how our Lord longs for the restoration of Jerusalem, of Israel and of the world under his reign. First, the righteous judgments in the book of Revelation must happen. We need to grow to be in sync with embracing all of the lordship of Jesus Christ.

We want to finish faithful!