

Are You Ready For the Return of Christ?

Matthew 24:45—25:13

- 1) **The Rapture** (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18) is NOT the Second Coming (Matt. 24:15-44; Rev. 19:11-21).
Note the contrasts:
 - a) **Christ comes in the air**; Christ comes to earth
 - b) **Only believers in view**; both saved/unsaved in view
 - c) **Dead in Christ raised, living ones ascend**; living ones sent to death
 - d) **Believers go from earth to heaven**; believers come from heaven to earth
 - e) **Followed by tribulation**; followed by millennium
 - f) **Is imminent**; is preceded by signs
 - g) **A mystery**; a prophecy
 - h) **Purpose is rescue**; purpose is judgment
 - i) **A message of comfort**; message of warning
- 2) Those ready for Christ's imminent return will be greatly rewarded
 - a) Study Scripture to have the mind of Christ; be enamored with Him
 - b) Be alert to the times in which we live
 - c) Be found busy doing the work of the Lord
- 3) Those not ready for Christ's return will suffer eternally
 - a) Give up reading Scripture b/c you're not a reader
 - b) Embrace a worldly attitude, thinking only of you and your family
 - c) Take God's grace for granted
 - d) Never think of the future as it relates to the end of all things