

Hurry Up and Wait!

1st Thes 4:13-18 (Topical Message)



Hurry up and wait. Does that frustrate you? (1) Rush to the bank, wait on line (2) Rush to an appointment, wait for the client (3) Rush home to make dinner, wait for kids to come home to eat (4) Rush to the grocery store, wait at the checkout (5) Rush to your doctor's appointment, wait in the lobby etc.

Brothers and Sisters – I see this same “Hurry up and wait” dynamic in Lord's Return for His Church.

We as Christians are in “Hurry Up Mode” to be used by God and to advance the Gospel of Grace before He returns and raptures His Church, but we are also in “Wait Mode” yearning, wanting and patiently waiting for Him to Return for His Church. Christians are in what I call a “Hurry Up and Wait” mode in living the Christian life. I want to look at this today.

Thus, the title of my message “**Hurry Up and Wait**”. How and what should we prioritize in our lives as we “Hurry Up and Wait” for the Lord to Rapture His Church: I have outlined 3 Priorities:

3 Priorities

(1) Prayer

(2) Wear

(3) Share

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NASB)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NASB)

¹ But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

Doesn't this sound like what is going on in our country (World Today)?

There is no specific sign to look for prior to the rapture of the Church. The only gage is an increase in men who are lovers of Self, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

(The Rapture of the Church is not the same thing as the Day of the Lord – The Church is Raptured, time passes to the start of a 7-year tribulation, Christ returns to set up His Kingdom on earth and reigns for 1000 years called the Millennium). It is my view that the church will not be in the 7-year tribulation because it won't be on earth, but raptured already into heaven).

1st Priority:

(1) Prayer

Let's look at what Paul tells Pastor Timothy about prayer in the Church Age (1st Tim – Pastoral Epistle).

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NASB)

¹ First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:8 (NASB)

⁸ Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

2nd Priority:

(2) Wear

Hey Pastor Rob – What in the world does this mean?

What I mean is that Christians should wear the Clothing of Christ, or in other words Express the life of Christ that is in you.

Brothers & Sisters – This is Christ being seen in you (like you being clothed in Christ).

How in does one do this? By faith, and not by Law keeping!

Galatians 2:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ "For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

3rd Priority:

(3) Share

Over the years I listen to many teachings on how to share one's faith, what to do and not to do, the use of a track, techniques devised by Church plant groups, etc. All this stuff is not wrong in what it teaches, but what it does is forcing a salvation message on someone, who in 99% of the time isn't receptive to hear it or receive it.

That's not being led by the Spirit, or Expressing the Fruit of the Spirit, or Expressing Christ who lives in us.

Sharing one's faith, and leading another person to saving faith in Jesus Christ should be a Spirit led, natural and unforced presentation of the Gospel (In God's timing and not our timing). There is no formula to sharing the Gospel Message (Christ was buried, Christ Died, and Christ Rose on the 3rd Day for the Forgiveness of Sins). Present it, discuss it and ask Do you believe it? or not?

Simple Prayer – Lord I believe you died and rose again for the forgiveness of my sins. Forgive me of my sins and come into my life and guide me in all your ways!

Romans 10:13-14 (NASB)

¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." ¹⁴ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

What do we do as we wait for the Lord to rapture His Church?

Prayer

Share

Wear



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