

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

You may have seen bumper stickers with this idea, “In case of Rapture, this car will be unmanned.” The doctrine of the Rapture and end time teachings is all over the religious world. They fill the airwaves in radio and television. People speak of the coming of the Anti-Christ and the mark of the beast. Some religious people have carried it so far they won’t use debit cards because they believe them to be linked to the evil one. All of these teachings are linked in one way or another to a teaching called “Premillennialism.” Many major religions teach this doctrine. Jack Van Impe, a television preacher who teaches the “Premillennialism” doctrine, ties all the present day events together to convince people it is the signs of the end of time, the Rapture. The doctrine of “Rapture” teaches that soon a secret event will occur, and all the faithful will be called away to the Lord. The rest of the planet will be left behind for a seven-year period, during which the evil world ruler, the “Anti-Christ” will arise. During all this time, those remaining on earth will endure the most intense suffering ever known to mankind called “The Great Tribulation.” At the end of this seven-year period, the Lord will return to defeat the Anti-Christ in the Battle of Armageddon and set up a kingdom in Jerusalem, where He will reign for a thousand years.

How do people come up with such teachings? By not being honest with God’s word! They take a verse here and a verse there to develop their thinking. None of the above is founded in Biblical truth. We can quickly see why Paul warned the preacher Timothy to “...*accurately handle the word of truth.* (II Tim. 2:15) What escapes their notice is there were many Anti-Christ in the first century (I John 2:18)!

What I’m trying to do in this article is show us that we need to be Bible centered people, looking for the truth and not follow people just because they quote Scripture. We need to have a sincere desire for the truth and faith in the truth. All sorts of doctrines are floating about, and we need to make certain that we aren’t taken in by someone misusing God’s word (Eph. 4:14-15). (We can see that in our study of Revelation on-going at present.) Study for yourself. Read your Bible and be honest. Don’t read one verse because someone quotes it and makes a doctrinal stand off it! Look at the verse in context. In your reading, love the truth with all your heart! God will make sure you find it!

When the Lord returns, there will be no kingdom set up on earth, no taking away of the righteous leaving all the unrighteous behind. Jesus won’t set foot on this earth again (I Thes. 4:15-17). The present heaven and earth will be utterly destroyed (II Pet. 3:5-7). It’s so sad to see so many follow religious, doctrinal teachings that are so wrong, but they think they are right. The devil is a great deceiver! Think about it!!!

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