

A Look at the TIMING of the Rapture

A simple dictionary definition of the word 'rapture' would be 'transport.' The word 'rapture' is not in the Bible, but people commonly refer to it as the 'catching away of the church.' So for our purposes tonight, we'll use the word 'rapture' to mean 'the transporting or catching up in the air of the Body of Christ.'

This subject has been the topic of much discussion lately, so I thought it would be good to address it this evening. For as long as I can remember, the PRE-Tribulation Rapture was accepted even among the traditional denominationalists (with whom I associated before learning 'right division'). Although I was aware of alternate views (namely MID-Trib and POST-Trib), I had never considered them to be practical options. None of my friends had ever questioned the 'Pre-Wrath' doctrine and quite frankly, I had never had occasion to defend it.

It was recently brought to my attention that the teaching of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture had been challenged from among us Grace Believers. Thus, I began to study the issue for myself, and wanted to share my conclusions with you.

Prior to my current understanding, I would have said that the day of Christ was the day of the Lord, except that it had Paul's mystery revelation (about the Body of Christ being raptured and inheriting the heavenly places) ADDED to it.

IF that were true, then watch what happens to the TIMING of the rapture in this main passage of controversy. Here's a hint: It places it in the MIDDLE of Daniel's 70th week:

2 Thess 2:1-4 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, (In other words, "Don't worry") neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (Evidently, the Thessalonians had been told that the day of Christ was nearly upon THEM and they were worried about it. Paul was calming their nerves by assuring them that the day of Christ was NOT near 'at hand' --- because 2 things must occur first ... BEFORE it comes --- and those 2 things had not happened and were not happening when Paul wrote this epistle to them.)

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (What day? Obviously, the day of Christ that he just spoke about in the verse before) shall not come, except there come (Here's the 1st thing: #1): a falling away first, (and here's the 2nd thing: #2) and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. These verses make the TIMING of the rapture DEPENDENT upon the definition of the phrase 'the day of Christ.' Therefore, something HAD to change

I had to either move my PRE-Trib position to be MID-Trib
 --OR-- change the CONTENT of what the Day of Christ included.

It had been suggested to 'just read the verses' --- **without any pre-conceived ideas** --- about what they SHOULD mean, or what they MUST mean. 'Just start with a clean slate' 'Don't force in what you already think' 'Wipe everything off the table.'

At first, that sounded like a reasonable thought. After all, who was I ??? that I would cram in my own view, before I even listened to 'what the verses actually say' ??? In an attempt to be fair-minded, it seemed like noble advice. However, when I applied that principal to any different subject, the result was **CONFUSION** --- which is exactly what people get when they FAIL to RECOGNIZE **Right Division.**

For example, on the subject of BAPTISM, watch the effect of that proposal:

Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (John had a water baptism, it is clear from the next 2 verses)

Matt 3:11 I (John) indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Here we see 2 baptisms one is physical, the other is spiritual)

This next verse shows that spiritual baptism, and it happened to every person there:

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Did you also get that every person not only got baptized with the Holy Ghost, but also spoke with tongues?)

Now, here's the point: If you don't understand Paul's UNIQUE message then when you read these next verses, you will get really MIXED UP about the issue of baptism:

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

You could end up thinking that you had to be WATER baptized to get put into Christ (that one would be the physical one) and that the water baptism ceremony would get you SPIRITUALLY baptized into His death and you need to speak with tongues!

What IF the baptisms in the gospel accounts are the same as in Paul's epistles?

Then, you would have to be water baptized in order to be spirit baptized to get into Christ:

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ (by water) have put on Christ (been baptized spiritually, the evidence of which is speaking in tongues).

See what a MESS that makes of verses! That is THE very problem that all the different denominations have! They are grossly confused because they do not recognize the distinctive ministry of Paul.

We, who already understand 'right division,' can easily see WHY they get so mixed-up. It is because they do not have the proper FOUNDATION laid by Paul, the master-builder (1 Cor 3:10), which is: the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest (Rom 16:25-26a).

Therefore, rather than THROWING AWAY our understanding of basic right division

before we even get started on the question of the TIMING of the Rapture,

we would be WISE to STUDY with it and to keep it in mind AS we read the verses.

**Let's don't be foolish by disregarding the exact tool God told us to USE:
Right Division!**

Now, with that said, let's examine tonight's subject. Here are the verses that describe the 'transporting' of the Body of Christ into the heavens:

1 Thess 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord (This is Paul's unique, direct revelation from God), that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air**: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Let's continue on to the very next verses in this same letter, and see that Paul talks about another thing that is also supposed to bring comfort to them:

1 Thess 5:1-11 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day (What day? the day of the Lord from verse 2) should overtake you as a thief. (The Thessalonians don't have to be fearful of the day of the Lord, because it won't come up on them.)

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath (WRATH is what is coming in the day of the Lord), but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (We will escape that day because we'll be 'caught up in the air' raptured before it comes)

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Remember, that's sorta like what Paul told the Thessalonians in his 2nd letter to them? Let's read 2 Thess. 2:1-2 again.

Because of the information Paul already GAVE them about the Rapture (which in his 1st epistle was described as being 'caught up together to meet the Lord in the air') and here, it is explained as 'our gathering together unto Him' --- Paul begged them not to be distressed about the day of Christ which is the SAME day as the day of the Lord because Christ IS the Lord:

2 Thess 2:1-2 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 **That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled**, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let's go on in this passage. Keep your place in 2 Thess chapter 2 ('cause that's our base) as we reference other verses with it:

2 Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means:

for that day (What day? the day of Christ from verse 2) shall not come, except (Here's 2 things that have to happen FIRST):

- (1) there come a falling away first,
- and (2) that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Paul is reviewing information they already had. That is the same thing Jesus told His disciples about when they questioned Him about the end. We'll go through Matt 24:

Matt 24:3-8 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?

and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (That will be the 'falling away' when MANY are deceived by anti-Christ)

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the BEGINNING of sorrows. (That's how it starts)

Matt 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. (The 'falling away' continues)

Matt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (They have to 'make it through' 7 years of tribulation)

This next verse is one that shows us we will NOT be present on earth when God is activating the '70th Week' program - because when we compare it with what Paul told the Galatians - we see that DIFFERENT gospels will NOT be preached at the same time. We, the Body of Christ, could not - by God - go out & preach the kingdom gospel:

Matt 24:14 And THIS gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Gal 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Matt 24:15 When ye therefore shall see **the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Let's go see that:

Dan 11:31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Dan 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. (1,290 days divided by 30 days per prophetic month = 43 months, which is basically 3-1/2 years. That means that the abomination of desolation happens near the middle of the 70th week of Daniel -- which is approximately half-way through the Tribulation period.)

Back in Matt 24, when they (the 'little flock' of true believers, the remnant of Israel) see the abomination of desolation, they better **RUN** for their lives:

Matt 24:16-21 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

That happens about the middle of the tribulation period, which is also described in Rev:

Rev 12:12-17 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place (that's Israel fleeing to the mountains), where she is nourished for a time (that's one year), and times (that's 2 years), and half a time (that's 1/2 a year --- which is 1 + 2 + 1/2 = 3-1/2 years), from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Let's go back to 2 Thess 2, and watch the same progression:

2 Thess 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Satan has been planning to usurp God's throne for a long time:

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Jerusalem is God's seat of power, both in heaven and on earth:

Psa 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Satan wants God's seat:

Ezek 28:2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

When the man of sin goes into the temple and takes the seat of God, Satan will finally achieve half of his evil dream. What an inauguration party when he seizes control of God's earthly seat, stops the daily sacrifice, and sets up the abomination of desolation. That is Israel's 'cue' to 'get out of town fast!'

The Thessalonians already knew this stuff:

2 Thess 2:5-6 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

Traditionally, verse 6 has been taught to say something I do not think the CONTEXT allows. It was said that 'what withholdeth' was the Holy Spirit occupying here on the earth in us, the Body of Christ.

But this passage is not even talking about that. It is talking about the 'proper time' when Son of Perdition will be divulged. WE, the Body of Christ, can be comforted because we are not even in 'this stuff.'

Be careful not to disturb the context of revealing the man of sin ... for WHO he REALLY is ... the son of perdition. We just read about that in verse 3. Think about that again in verse 6.

2 Thess 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth (the thing that is being 'withheld' -- or 'hindered' -- is the 'true IDENTITY' of the man of sin) that he (the man of sin) might be revealed (as the son of perdition) in his (the man of sin's) time.

The man of sin will come to Israel by trickery promising peace, to deliver them from wars and rumours of wars. But he will be deceitful and vile:

Dan 11:21-24 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but **he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries**.

22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

24 **He shall enter peaceably** even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

God gave the vision of Israel's end time to Daniel. It has to do with the conclusion of the Prophetic Program, and focused on the 2nd coming of Christ.

A 'week' does not necessarily mean 7 'days,' but it does mean 7 'of something.'

Generally, the context will identify what the week is made of. In Gen. and Lev. there is a week of days, a week of years (that would be 7 years), a week of sabbaths (that would be 7 sabbaths), a week of months (7 months), etc.

We can figure out how long the week is by using John's revelation:

Rev 12:6 And the woman (that's Israel) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (A 'score' is 20, so 3-score is 3 x 20 = 60.)

1,260 days divided by 30 days in a prophetic month = 42 months, which is 3-1/2 years.

That's about the 'middle of the week' when Israel runs for cover. Therefore, we know that the 70th week of Daniel, which is the Tribulation, is equal to 7 years.

These next verses are the most basic prophecy for the Jewish time table:

Dan 9:24-27 Seventy weeks (that's 70 weeks x 7 years - which is what 1 week equals - that's a total of 490 years) are determined upon thy people (that's Israel) and upon thy holy city (that's Jerusalem), to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (490 years until God reclaims His throne on the earth and sets up His kingdom rule.)

25 Know therefore and understand, that (Here's where the time-table of 70 weeks begins):

from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (that happened in the year 445 B.C. in Neh. 2:1-8, when they went back to rebuild the CITY, not just the temple, as described in Ezra --- that is where the 70 weeks starts.)

unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, (There is 7 weeks) and threescore and two weeks: (3-score = 60 + 2 = 62 so 7 + 62 = 69 weeks which is like 7 x 7 = 49 years and ADD to that 62 x 7 = 434 years, for a total of 483 years that's partly how the wise men from the East knew about the time that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off (that is the crucifixion of Christ, about 33 A.D., which is Isa 53:8), but not for himself: and the people of the prince (that is Anti-Christ's people) that shall come shall destroy the city (that's Jerusalem) and the sanctuary; (There is a 'prophetic GAP of time' here between the 69th and 70th weeks in which some things happen, namely, Christ is crucified and Anti-Christ's people destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary. During this 'non-counting time period,' Israel is not God's nation, Israel is no different than the Gentiles. It is also the gap where God inserted the mystery program) and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: (that is the 70th week, which is 7 years) and in the midst of the week (that is about the middle of the 70th week, which is like 3-1/2 years into it) he (the man of sin, the son of perdition) shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Now, back in 2 Thess. 2 remember the context is talking about he (the man of sin) being revealed. He came on the scene masquerading as a man of peace, hiding his true identity, but when he takes control of the temple and sits in the seat of God, his pride exposes his true self, and that's Israel's SIGN to 'head for the hills' where God will protect them from Anti-Christ's wrath.

2 Thess 2:6-7 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he (the man of sin) who now letteth (this is the same Greek word as in the verse before it that is translated 'withholdeth' --- it basically means 'to hinder') will let, (will hinder) (The man of sin will hinder his true identity, until he 'turns into' the son of perdition) until he (the man of sin) be taken out of the way.
(The man of sin will be taken away when he suffers a 'death blow' from a sword (Rev 13:14) near the middle of the week. He will die and then be resurrected as the son of perdition.)

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

He is the beast, who will be 'taken out of the way' by death, but he will return as the 8th:

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Judas Iscariot is the person Jesus named as the Son of Perdition:

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Back to 2 Thess chapter 2 his actions then will cause him to be recognized as 'that Wicked' and Christ will openly fight against him:

2 Thess 2:8-12 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause (because they received not the love of the truth) God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Here's that time described by John:

Rev 13:11-18 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. (that's 666)

Go back to 2 Thess chapter 2 these next two passages are basic for establishing the Pre-Tribulation Rapture for the Body of Christ:

God designed for the Body to be SAVED (delivered) from all that wrath. Paul instructs the Thessalonians to keep and treasure this information that he's given them:

2 Thess 2:13-15 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Just after Paul explained about the day of the Lord in his first epistle to them, he basically told them the same thing --- that God will deliver the Body of Christ from that time:

1 Thess 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

We looked at the 'WHEN' now let's see the 'WHAT' of the rapture.

We already have the adoption of the Spirit we are WAITING for the adoption of our BODY. That's 'what' will happen when we are changed and 'caught up' in the air:

Rom 8:15-23 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The actual TERM that God called that time (when our body is changed and taken up to heaven, where we will be judged and glorified) is the day of redemption:

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Earlier in this epistle to the Ephesians, Paul expressed basically the same thing:

Eph 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We are waiting for the day of the redemption for our body to be changed and taken up in the air.

Once we get up there, Christ will JUDGE our works:

After we're raptured, then we'll be judged not for our SINS (they were paid for at Calvary) but for our WORKS:

Rom 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

We will receive a REWARD if we have based our ministry on Paul's gospel

but if we have done bad or wrong - then we will suffer LOSS of reward:

Col 3:23-25 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
24 Knowing that of the Lord **ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance:** for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

It is very important to rightly divide, and be careful to build on the foundation Paul laid, which is the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, (Rom. 16:25). Otherwise, you're wasting time, materials, and money, by framing up walls where they don't belong because you did not follow God's blueprint:

1 Cor 3:10-15 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But **let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.**

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for **the day shall declare it**, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.**

15 If any man's work shall be burned, **he shall suffer loss:** but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

We will be judged and assigned our heavenly positions:

IF we labor in Paul's gospel message, we'll be rewarded. **IF** we don't, we'll suffer loss:

Col 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproueable in his sight:

23 **IF** ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of **the gospel**, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; **whereof I Paul am made a minister;**

If you don't want to be ashamed and embarrassed for your work, then you'd better rightly divide so God will approve it:

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself **approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

IF you choose to spread Paul's gospel, you will suffer for it. He did. But, look on the bright side: **IF** you suffer for it, you will be rewarded in heaven:

2 Tim 2:8-13 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

12 **If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:** if we deny him, he also will deny us:

13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Suffering for the message of grace is a choice. **IF** you WILL do it, you will suffer for it:

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that **will** live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

It is the message of grace that teaches us to live godly:

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope (**that's our rapture and reward**), and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us (**on the day of redemption**) from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Then we can be **REJOICING** in the day of Christ. We don't have to **FEAR** 'that day':
2 Cor 1:14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your **rejoicing**, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

If we get rewarded for laboring in Paul's gospel, we'll be happy we didn't waste our efforts in the 'wrong message':

Phil 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may **rejoice** in the **day of Christ**, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

God keeps working on us, even through our judgment, until we're completely pure in the day of Christ:

Phil 1:6-10 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and **in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.**

8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Christ will present us **blameless** before the throne of God, but first, we need our **bad** works burnt off by His judgment fire:

1 Thess 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts **unblameable** in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thess 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved **blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 1:7-8 So that ye come behind in no gift; **waiting** for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: **(that will be at the day of our redemption)**

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be **blameless** in the **day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the **day of Christ COMES** to earth it will be a **fearful time** for those who are **left behind here**. But for the Body of Christ we will have a **different experience** in the **day of Christ**. We will already have been **raptured** (to escape the wrath poured out on the earth) and we will be assigned and placed in our **heavenly positions** **blameless!**

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"