

Would You Go With Them?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Thess 4:15-17 "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: 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".

No one knows when the Lord will return, just that someday he will come back for his people. As this scripture shows there will be Christians living on the earth when the Lord returns for his church. Do you consider seriously that you could be alive when the time comes for the church to ascend to be with the Lord? The question is, will you arise to join the Lord in the air?

Jesus is coming for his church, just as he said that he would. **John 14:3**, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Who is His church? Those who

have believed and obeyed Jesus, not just saying, but doing his commands. It is sad to say, but not all who say that they believe and call him Lord will be in that number. I don't say this, the Lord said it in **Matthew 7:21-22**, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Some will trust in works instead of trusting only in the grace of God. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" **Matthew 7:22**. The danger here is that a person may confuse works with trusting in Jesus.

Jesus can and will save us but our works never will. We are saved to work, not saved by works. In spite of having the bible and the knowledge of God that has been revealed to us, there is still so much misunderstanding about salvation and living for God. So many things that are plainly told us in scripture are still debated and ignored by so many who claim to teach the word of God. I have been told by more than one person that they didn't believe the bible to mean what it said about some things. Who gave them this information, or "understanding" about the word of God? It didn't come from the Lord. He didn't say one thing while meaning something else.

If a person tries to change what God has commanded

and lives according to what he thinks, instead of what God has said, will he rise with the church? The Lord has shown all through the bible that He desires, no demands, that believers obey Him. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." **John 4:23-24**.

In **1 Samuel 15: 22-23** Samuel said, "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." This verse and many others show that God is serious about us following him and not going our own way.

There is coming a day when the Lord is going to come back to this earth. In **Acts 1** the angels said that he would come back in the same manner as he went - in the clouds. When he comes he will gather his church just as he promised in his word. Jesus said himself that not everyone would enter into heaven who called him Lord, just those who had done the will of God. Those who lived by their own will and did not obey the Lord will be left behind.

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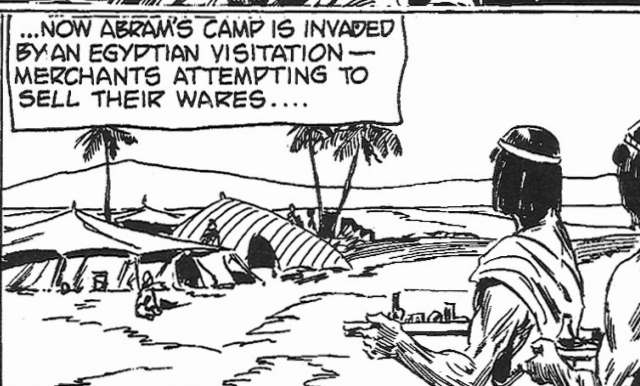
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