

Raised Up

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 28th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
~1st Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)*

1) The Mystery Revealed, The Future Concealed...

- A) It was easier for followers of Christ to understand the “seed/flower” metaphor which many had witnessed in Jesus Christ as solid proof of a future bodily resurrection from death to life (1st Corinthians 15:1-49).
- B) But what about those who weren’t already dead when Christ triumphantly returns (15:50-53)? The mystery of what would happen at the imminent return of Christ is revealed by Paul!
- C) Paul provides us with a great example of ALWAYS living in the full anticipation that Christ can return at ANY MOMENT (cf. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- D) The time of this “rapture” of Christ’s living followers is never detailed, and is mixed with other events, like the final judgment of mankind (1st Corinthians 15:54-57).
- E) The point is simple though! We should be encouraged that CHRIST IS VICTOR (15:57), and each of us should live in light of His return (15:58). There is victory in Jesus, which radically transforms us TODAY!

Baptism Basics

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

~Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)

1) Why Do We Baptize?

- A) Baptism by immersion in water was commanded by Christ (Matthew 28:19); and it was also exemplified by Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:13-17). Jesus’ example of baptism was a public identification with God’s Kingdom and against sin!
- B) Baptism is symbolic of TOTAL identification with Jesus! It includes His death (Romans 6:3), His life (Romans 6:8) and His resurrection (Romans 6:5). It is comprehensive!
- C) Baptism is an act of obedience for believers (Acts 2:38, 41, 8:36-38, 10:44-48, 18:8). Baptism always follows an expressed belief in Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:37).
- D) Baptism does not save a person (cf. Luke 23:39-43), but was often associated IMMEDIATELY with salvation (Acts 2:38, 8:34-38). Baptism does not add to what Christ has done, nor does it complete His atoning work on the cross.
- E) Public baptism is an external witness of God’s Kingdom to others of an internal, spiritual work done by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:47, Matthew 28:19-20).
- F) All obedient followers of Jesus should be baptized as a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ!