

Be Strong #30

Take Me Away

*A man and wife asleep in bed,
she hears a noise and turns her head, he's gone.*

I wish we'd all been ready.

*Two men walking up a hill,
one disappears and ones left standing still.*

I wish we'd all been ready.

There's no time to change your mind.

The son has come and you've been left behind.

Do you remember this DC Talk song from the 90's? It was a remake from a Larry Norman song in the 70's (if my mind remembers correctly). It's about the rapture and the second coming of Christ.

How long has it been since you've talked to your kids about the rapture of the church? I admit, I haven't been thinking about it, or talking about it as much as I should, but the certain reality is before us. In fact, it could happen before I write the next word _____.

Well! Not yet! But I need to be expectant and ready. Here's what Paul said to us in his first letter to the Thessalonians, "*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Jesus also talked about it in Matthew 24:29-30. That is going to be an awesome day isn't it? Or is it? Some may say "Yeah, I know that's going to happen someday, but I hope it's not until _____." You fill in the blanks. You might say I hope Christ waits until 2050 or 3000, or somewhere in the distant future. I don't know about you, but if I'm honest, there's a lot I would like to see happen in the future. I'd love to be around to see my grandson, and other grandchildren born and grow up. I hope to walk my daughter down the aisle someday and give her hand to God's perfect man for her life. I would like to finish well the task God has given me on earth "to equip the saints for works of service", especially this next generation, (Ephesians 4:12). But the reality is "Wow, I would love it if He came this very second!" If He blew the trumpet and in an instant, we who are here would be with Him, that would be awesome! We would be out of here! No more temptation! No more heartache! No more chronic pain! No more worry or stress! No more pain and suffering for my aging parents! No more pain for my friend who is today in ICU fighting for his life! No more opportunity to fall into sinful choices for me and those I love. No more. No more. We will begin our eternity with Him as the "robed in white" army of God. What a day that will be, when our Savior's face we see.

Are you living in the light of eternity?

Do we live our lives each day with the thought that this could be the day? If we do, it will change the way we live. If we don't give it much thought each day, then most likely we are living for the fullness of this world. If that's the case, we're probably not very fruitful in His kingdom. You may have heard it said about Christians that some are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good, but if I don't live in the light of eternity maybe the opposite is true – **I might be so worldly minded, I am no heavenly good.** I don't know who said these statements, but I sure don't want that to describe my life when it is all said and done. The most important thing in life for me is to be with Jesus in heaven one day and to take as many people with me as possible. What about you? Maybe it's time to explain the coming of Christ to your kids. Maybe you should talk about the reality of the rapture with them. I bet you will really peak their interest and open up a great conversation. Maybe it will be good to find the movie *Left Behind* and watch it together. Let's help our kids be ready for that day. Remember, you're the parent. If you don't teach them this word of God they may never hear it. ***So, be strong!***

In His Joy!

Jerome
Eph. 2:10