**Family Worship Center 3/14/10**

**Pastor Mark Schwarzbauer, Ph.D.**

**Learning Objectives:** 1. To understand what the rapture event is.

2. To comfort with these words. 3. To encourage readiness.

**Introduction: Last week we debunked the Mayan calendar fraud about the world ending on December 21 of 2012. Today we will see what really is next on God’s Calendar.**

**Text: I Thessalonians 4:13-18.**

**Part One: On an Ordinary Day**

I. I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

II. The next event on the prophetic calendar.

III. The Rapture- I Thessalonians 4:17

 A. When Jesus comes and takes the Christians away.

 1. Catching away.

 2. From the Latin Vulgate "rapiemur."

 a. The word "rapture" *is* in the Bible.

 b. The Latin Vulgate was the common Bible of the church

 for over a thousand years.

 B. The Rapture.

 1. He brings with Him those who sleep.

 2. The Lord Himself descends.

 3. The voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God.

 4. The dead rise and are reunited soul and body.

 5. We are "caught up" together with them to meet the Lord in the air.

IV. The Timing.

1. No man knows the day or hour, Matthew 25:13.
2. Like a thief in the night, I Thessalonians 5:2-4
3. Sign of Israel, Matthew 24:32-34.
4. One is taken the other left, Matthew 24:40-42.

**Part Two: Comfort**

I. Comfort, vs. 4:18, 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

 A. a  (parakaleite).

 B. Greek present active, IMPERATIVE.

 C. The "call along side", to encourage or console.

 D. Concerning those who are "asleep."

 1. Not soul sleep.

 2. Proper etiquette in Greek for "dead."

 3. He brings them with Him.

 4. II Corinthians 5:6-8.

III. Edification, vs. 5:11.

 A.  (oikodomeite).

 B. Greek present active IMPERATIVE.

 C. Meanings.

 1. Literally means "to build a house."

 2. Implies building up a person.

 3. Both repair and construct.

 D. Those whose lifestyles are not reflecting their faith.

III. Exhortation.

 A. Hebrews 10:24-25.

 B. Consider one another.

 C. Stir up love and good works.

 D. Exhorting to faithfulness to church.

**Part Three: The Readiness**

I. At his trial, Socrates proclaimed the basic philosophical premise that “the unexamined life was not worth living.” The soon return of Christ calls for our utmost consideration.

II. I John 3:1-3.

Close: Comfort, encourage, prepare.

***Discussion items and Questions for Home or Small Group***

1. Describe the Rapture in your own words.
2. To some people, the Rapture seems scary. Do Christians need to be scared by it?
3. How can you comfort and edify each other with these words?
4. How can you build people up with these words?
5. Reread Hebrews 10:24-25 and discuss what it means and how you can do this.
6. What does it mean to examine your life?
7. What do you need to do to prepare for the Rapture?
8. Take time to pray.