



## Pastor's Comments

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### Purity & The Rapture

Recently, I felt strongly urged by the Lord to preach on "**Primary Priorities For Rapture Readiness**" stressing three scriptural priorities – **Prayer, Purity, and Purpose**. You can hear the complete message at: [www.naog.ws/sermons.htm](http://www.naog.ws/sermons.htm)

This column is from the second priority – **Purity**. Scripture emphasizes the necessity of maintaining a **godly life for Rapture readiness**. "*We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath **this hope** in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure*" (1 John 3:2-3). **Purify** means "**to make clean; sanctify**." In Titus 2:11-14 we read that "*the grace of God*" teaches us that, "*denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should **live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify** unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of **good works***." A genuine work of God's grace in one's life involves both a work of **purity** by the Holy Spirit and a cooperative work on our part of **cleansing** as commanded in James 4:8, "**Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts**." The Apostle Paul emphasized the completeness of this work of **purity** in our lives in connection with the **Rapture**, "*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 Thess. 5:23). The necessity of **purity** for **Rapture readiness** is emphasized in many other scriptures such as: "*Keep this commandment **without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ***" (1 Tim. 6:14), and "*That ye may be **blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ***" (1 Cor. 1:8).

### **Northampton Assembly of God**

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