



Pastor's Comments

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Purpose & 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

This column is from the third priority – **Purpose**. God created us to please Him! "*Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*" (Rev. 4:1). Christian living centers on the **purpose of pleasing Christ** – not ourselves! In Mark 13:34 we read, "*For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work.*" Jesus has given us, His servants, **work to do**: "**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature**" (Mark 16:15). We must be fulfilling that **purpose** when He returns. "*Who then is a faithful and wise servant ... Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing*" (Mt 24:45-46). Christ's servants lose their sense of **purpose** when they lose the **vision of the Lord's imminent return**. "*If that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him ... and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Mt. 24:48-51).

In Old Testament times, Enoch prophesied of the **second coming of the Lord**: "**Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints**" (Jude 1:14). As a man of **prayer and purity**, Enoch was **rapture ready**: "**And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him**" (Gen. 5:24). Enoch lived his life with **purpose** "*for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God*" (Heb 11:5).

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