

KNOWING THE THINGS OF GOD (I Corinthians 2:11-14)

The bible teaches us that in order to understand God's word the Holy Spirit must be present in the person who is trying to figure out what God is saying. Not only is this truth given to us but also the fact that if we want to discover spiritual truth we must be willing to search and compare the scriptures.

Dispensationalism

Regarding redemptive history there are basically two views held: (1) Covenant theology (many believe Calvinism and replacement theology came from this system). (2) Dispensation theology.

Covenant theology essentially makes no distinction between Israel and the Church. In their view all believers are grouped together under the premise that because all get saved the same way then all promises in scripture are meant for every believer, therefore they 'spiritualize' (allegory) all scripture that appear to be directed specifically to the Jews or to the Church and do not recognize the difference.

Ephesians 1:10; 3:2 Dispensation theology (a distinct time period with unique principles applying between mankind and God). This is the theology we base all bible interpretation on.

Paul the Apostle made direct reference to specific dispensations.

Matthew 5:17; 24:21; Luke 21:24; Hebrews 8:6-8; Revelation 20:4 The concept of differing time periods is expressed in different ways throughout scripture but the meaning is obvious.

II Timothy 2:15 (Rightly divide the word) (1) Innocence- **Gen. 1:28-30; 2:15-17** (2) Conscience- **Gen. 8-Gen. 8:22** (3) Human Government- **Gen. 8- 11:7-9** (4) Promise- **Gen. 12-19:25** (5) Law- **Ex. 19- Luke:22-20** (6) Grace- **Luke 22:20- I Thess. 4:14-17** (7) Millennial Kingdom- **Rev. 19:11-20:9**

Pretribulation Rapture

I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:16-18 There are three views on the Rapture (1) Pretribulation (2) Mid Tribulation (3) Post Tribulation. Our view is Pretribulation for these reasons:

A. **Matthew 24:42; 25:13** – A imminent event. If we put **Rev. 12:6; Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27** together we see that the Jews know the exact day when Messiah will save them. (Post Rapture???)

B. **Luke 12:36; John 14:2-3; Rev. 19:7-9** – The Marriage Supper. Putting these verses together the only conclusion we can come to is that Jesus has fulfilled His promise to get us to the Fathers house according to Jewish custom. The bible teaches that the church is Christ's bride. (Post Rapture???)

C. **Matthew 25:31-34** – The people of the Kingdom. The only living people to enter the Millennial Kingdom are those saved people from the Tribulation. If there was a Post Tribulation Rapture who would repopulate the earth? (Post Rapture???)

D. **Matthew 24:14; Rev. 7:4** *Sealed* servants preaching *another Gospel*. – Here we find in Tribulation context Jewish servants preaching “*The Gospel of the Kingdom*.” Also we see in these verses that they were *sealed*?? If the church was in the Tribulation why do they have to be *sealed* in order to serve the Lord? In **Ephesians 1:12-13** believers are sealed at the time of salvation. (Post Rapture???)

E. **I Thessalonians 5:9-11** God has not appointed wrath to believers. – By this we do not believe Christians will not suffer persecution (**John 15:19-20**). However, because of the context of Paul's statement coming right after he discusses the Rapture we can be certain of the *salvation* he speaks of. **Revelation 11:18; 12:12; 14:8; 14:19; 15:1; 16:19** These verses speak of God's wrath against those on the earth at the time of Tribulation. How would we be able to 'comfort ourselves together' (**Thes. 9:11**) if believers had that kind of wrath to look forward to? We are His children!! (Post Rapture???)

F. **Matthew 16:18; I John 4:4; 5:4-5; Revelation 13:7** The saints are overcome. During the Tribulation the anti-Christ overcomes the saints. If this is a reference to the church then it contradicts what Jesus said in **Matthew** and John said in **I John** and we know God does not lie. (Post Rapture???)