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**THE DOCTRINE OF ESCATOLOGY (END TIMES)**

**Introduction:** Historically we would refer to this study as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1, because it has largely been about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2, but man has now seen many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3 of Gods plan over six millennia that now correspond with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4 Proven? Yes, fulfilled prophecy with 100% accuracy!

Many of those revelations declared are the events which would occur throughout history confirming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5 of the prophecies. Many of those revelations were introductory to the period we refer to as the “end times,” some early and some are latter. We can conclude with history, that many of the end time prophecies were \_\_\_\_\_6, **the first coming of Christ**, His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection and ascension. These \_\_\_\_\_\_7 the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecy concerning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8.

The breaking of the silence, (400 years – intertestamental period) God speaks again as John the Baptist pronounces Jesus as the one long awaited in Israel, the light of the world, the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world, the long awaited Messiah, the promised seed of salvation, surely the clock is set again to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_9 of all Biblical prophecy.

Two thousand years have passed since that pronouncement, many prophecies are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_10, and past, and their historical reference now directs our focus to follow the chronology to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_11 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_12

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Illus: When I was a child my mother would sometimes take our family on a drive to visit someone or someplace. We most often did not know the details, only the destination. Because I rode in the back of our rambler station wagon with my brother Dave and my dog hector, I never knew where we were going just where we had been. On most trips my brothers or sister would recognize things along the way confirming we were going the right direction to our desired destination. Inevitably mom would say alright, sit up, fix your hair, pick up and straighten up were almost there. When we arrived we were all ready and when the doors opened we bailed out as if we had been ready all along. The truth is we were adjusting as we journeyed, and the closer we came to the end, the more conscious we were of being ready.

**The Bible is a book of Revelation**, God is revealed in His word, He is revealed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,13 He is revealed in \_\_\_\_\_\_,14 who confirms “if you have seen me, you’ve seen the Father also…” (Jn. 14:9). This Bible, the \_\_\_\_\_\_15 of all scripture is a revelation of God, He is the living word. Born again believers, as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,16 are a living revelation of God in Christ. The indwelling, abiding, empowering and enabling work of the Holy Spirit conforms us to the image of Christ. (Eph. 2:10)

**The Bible is a record of both prophetic and historic revelation. Much of the prophetic is now historic, and from the historic we now can see the prophetic.**

Each prophecy fulfilled moves us closer to the last prophecy presented or the End of Time. This time reference is to man’s historic existence upon the Earth. Some things change with time and testing, but many things continue as they are until they encounter “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”17.

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We could establish where we are (**Historically & Prophetically**) \_\_

18.

The most recent revelations of fulfilled prophecy can include the birth of the nation of Israel, May 14th 1948, as prophesied in the Old Testament. The United States of Europe, the rise of Russia, Aligning of Nations, wars and rumors of wars, disease, pestilence, famines, lawlessness (II Tim. 3:1). Globalism, communism, socialism, atheism, secularism. Many of these “road signs” along the way were significant, others seemingly less significant, yet looking back they confirm God’s prophetic truth.

**Where are we today concerning the end of time**, or the completion of God’s prophetic plan for man through the ages? The study of these things is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,19 the study of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,20 or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_21, the consummation of all things.

1. **Historically** – According to the Biblical record, confirm what you know is completed, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (II Tim. 3:2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_…22.

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1. **Prophetically** – According to the Biblical record, confirm what is currently relevant and prophetically related. **7 Major Signs Fulfilled**
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_23

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_24
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_25
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1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_28
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_29

**7 Major Events to Follow**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_30
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_31
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_32
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_33
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_34
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_35
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_36

**The Rapture:** The most significant event on God’s prophetic calendar of end time events is not found among the 774,747 words in the King James Bible. But, neither are the words **Trinity, demon, grandfather** or **Bible**, but there is a Trinity, clearly presented in scripture which is in the Bible, and therein demons are presented as evil spirits, devils and unclean spirits.

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The word rapture is from rapere in Latin (I Thess. 4:17) which means “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,”37 or harpazo in Greek with the same meaning translated “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,”38 even as it is in (Acts 8:39) where Philip was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_39 by the Holy Spirit, or (II Cor. 12:2, 4) when Paul was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_40 into the third heaven. We could also refer to the Greek allasso in (I Cor. 15:51, 52) “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,”41 the translation from this life to the next or this earthly to eternity – (mortal – immortal, terrestrial – celestial, temporal – eternal) whatever you call it make sure you can claim it!

Illus: harpazo-allasso or Rapture, to catch up, to change, it is a selective process much like a magnet catches away the debris with metallic content leaving behind, wood, soil, cloth or fabric, nonmetallic substance. A select audience is to be caught-up while non-qualified elements remain behind. Those caught up are changed from earthly to eternity. (I Cor. 2:16; II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:24; II Pt. 1:4).

In (Jn. 14:1-3) we discover the first prophetic passage with the promise of the rapture, Christ’s return for the purpose of receiving believers unto Himself and returning with them to heaven and a place prepared for them.

**The Old Testament Prophets** spoke of Messiah’s return to the earth and the renewed kingdom upon the earth (Is. 2:2-5, 9:6-7, 11:1-16, 32:1, 35:1-10), but nothing about removing believers from the earth.

**The New Testament Presents** this prophecy concerning the believers under a new Covenant/church age, a promise of leaving before dying. (I Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28).

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**Let’s Consider** I Thess. 4:13-18

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

**NOTE:** In Acts 17 the Thessalonian believers expressed their concerns about fellow believers now departed, would they miss out on Christ’s return? This is the context of chapter four, and Paul shares four responses in our text concerning the resurrection of the dead Saints and the removal of the living Saints that remain.

1. **A Realization** (4:13) Paul wants these believers to be reassured their reward is shared with those already removed in death (dead in Christ) and those removed alive (having never tasted death), the rapture. The Apostle Paul did not want the believers to be ignorant of this truth. Three other areas Paul would not have believers to be ignorant, the events in the Old Testament (I Cor. 10:1), the restoration of Israel (Rom. 11:25), and the manifestation of the Spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:21).

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1. **A Repose** (4:14) The death of a believer is a promise of rest, a place of peace, protection and privilege (Mt. 27:52; Jn. 11:11; Acts 7:60, 13:36; I Cor. 15:6, 18, 20, 51; II Pt. 3:4). Note: This verse nowhere teaches ‘soul sleep’, unscriptural doctrine refuted by (Mt. 17:3; Rev. 6:9-11).
2. **A Revelation** (4:15) Paul’s inclusive revelation “We,” at this point he is laboring with this assurance, he will later learn otherwise (II Tim. 4:6). The peace and comfort of a resurrection of the dead in Christ is compounded by the removal of the living Saints.
3. **A Return** (4:16) The announcing angel has always been Gabriel while the avenging angel has been Michael (Dan. 12:1-2; Mt. 1:20, 2:13; Lk. 1:19, 26), at Christ’s first coming. Note: “with a shout” this is the last of the three recorded “shouts” of Christ, and on each occasion a resurrection took place.
   1. (Jn. 11:43-44) The shout at Bethany – Lazarus came forth.
   2. (Mt. 27:50-53) The shout at Calvary – some Saints came forth.
   3. (I Thess. 4:16) The shout at the Rapture – dead and living Saints come forth.
4. **A Resurrection** (4:16) The believing dead are resurrected and the believers who are yet alive are removed, in a moment!
5. **A Rapture** (4:17) The Lord does not return to the earth, He removes the believers (the body – the bride) living – changed! Dead – changed. (I Cor. 15:51-54). A mystery – not a revelation.
6. **A Reassurance** (4:18) For the dead in Christ, dearly departed, they are assured of a resurrection, a removal, and a return to the promised place. For the living, a renewal and relocation! Amen!

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Let’s Consider (I Cor. 15:51-53)

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

**Consider four key phrases from this passage:**

1. “I shew you a mystery” outside of the unusual circumstances surrounding Enoch’s translation and Elijah’s being taken up in a chariot, Old Testament Saints literally died to see heaven. The Saints had to taste death to travel on to heaven, but this mystery or undeclared truth revealed the saved could go without dying (the mystery revealed) while the dead remain assured they are not without.
2. “we shall all be changed…in the twinkling of an eye” That all is inclusive of all who “believe,” but it is also exclusive of the one final believer, the one who completes the number of them “all” (the bridegroom will come, He will call for His bride, collectively). Note: (Eph. 1:10, 22-23, 2:21, 4:4, 13, 16, 5:22-23). From the first converts of the church to the last we have one thing in common, we are being conformed to the image of Christ!

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1. “For the trumpet shall sound” the three specific passages which refer to this event feature a trumpet (I Cor. 15:52; I Thess. 4:16; Rev. 4:1). The trumpet was used to call the Hebrew Nation to assembly – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,42 here the Israelites would be given instruction, then there is the trumpet sounding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_43 perhaps judgment, perhaps danger, perhaps threatening’s. The trumpet called the Jews to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,44 a specific sound/no uncertain sound-confusion, a trumpet sound was used to call the nation to \_\_\_\_\_45 – construction of walls, roads, infrastructure, weapons, housing… Most significant was the call of the trumpet to the worship of God, all these are surpassed by a trumpet sounding to call the Christian church to the presence of the Lord. The rapture has only one trumpet (Num. 10:4), as believers are called home.
2. “For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality”.

**Corruption:** Human flesh corrupted by sin – supernaturally resurrected to eternal life as the living Saints and dead Saints receive incorruptible bodies replacing the sinful bodies with supernatural bodies.

**Mortal:** From temporal flesh to eternal, transformed from the earthly limitations to eternal life without restriction.

The rapture is first of all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_46 of dead Saints, and then \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_47 of the living Saints. The rapture precedes the Tribulation period while the Second Coming concludes it.

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NOTE: The Second Coming is in two stages also, **the first is the rapture** “the mystery” “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (I Cor. 15:51). The trumpet sounds for a select group (N.T believers) the time is not yet discovered, but only the believers will be called up, both living and in the grave. The rapture has unique characteristics as the first part of the second coming—Resurrection—Removal without a return to the earth (I Thess. 4:16-17). As a “mystery” no signs in the heavens precede this event. The rapture is identified with the day of Christ (I Cor. 1:8; II Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6, 10). We see in (I Thess. 4:18) it is a blessing, and a comfort to believers, and (I Cor. 15:52) tells us it occurs so quickly no one will see it, and only believers will experience it! (Jn. 14:1-4; I Cor. 15:51-58; I Thess. 4:13-18).

The second stage of the second coming **is the Revelation and the Return to earth** (Zech. 14:4) Jesus returns with His Saints (I Thess. 3:13; Jude 14) **note:** If the whole host of heaven “returns” then the New Testament Saints, both dead and living, must have been resurrected, removed and reunited with their Saviour. This event is not a “mystery” (Ps. 72; Is. 11; Zech. 14) Signs and songs announce it (Mt. 24:29-30). “It is the day of the Lord” (II Thess. 2:1-12). This is a coming judgment (II Thess. 2:8‑12) no comfort or blessing here. It is a visible Revelation for the whole world to see (Mt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7) Christ returns to the earth, as “Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings.” (Mal. 4:2)

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ADDENDUM

One Passage that presents this position clearly is (titus2:13) where we read, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Two distinctly different events which take place under the Biblical precedent of the second coming – part on is the Blessed hope part two the glorious appearing. The first is the mystery – the resurrection and the removal of the Saints/Rapture, part two the glorious appearing is the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the whole world and His return to the earth.

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| The Rapture of the Church | The Glorious Appearing of Christ |
| * Christ comes in the air and draws believers both living & dead up to meet Him there. | * Christ comes with believers back to the earth to set up His kingdom. |
| * All believers on earth are transformed and translated – supernaturally – corruption/incorruption. | * There are no translations of anyone living on the earth. |
| * Believers are taken up to the Father’s house. | * Resurrected Saints remain on the earth. |
| * There is no judgment upon the earth. | * Christ judges the inhabitants of earth. |
| * The church is taken to heaven. | Christ sets up His kingdom on earth. |
| * His coming to take us up is imminent. | * This cannot occur until the seven years of Tribulation begins. |
| * There are no signs that precede it. | * Numerous signs that point to it. |

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ADDENDUM

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| The Rapture of the Church | The Glorious Appearing of Christ |
| * Only believers are impacted. | * All people of earth are impacted. |
| * A time of joy & comfort | * A time of mourning and sorrow. |
| * It occurs before the day of wrath. | * It occurs after the day of wrath. |
| * Satan is not bond, but wreaks havoc on the earth. | * Satan is bound for 1000 years. |
| * Judgment seat of Christ for all Christian believers | * Christians already judged the world will be. |
| * Marriage of the Lamb will take place. | Marriage of the Lamb already taken placed. |
| * Only believers will see and experience the rapture. | * All on earth will see Christ coming from above. |
| * Seven years of Tribulation will follow. | * 1000 years of millennial reign begins. |

The Lord promised to “keep” His church from the Tribulation of those days (Rev. 3:10).

The Lord promised to deliver His church from "the wrath to come" ( I Thess. 1:10) removing the believers/bride before beginning.

The Lord promised no wrath appointed to His church (I Thess. 5:9, Rev. 3:10). The wrath is appointed for the Tribulation period, but the church is not.

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NOTE: What the rapture is not, first of all, it is not a “partial removal process,” some suggest only “spiritual” believers are moved. The carnal Christians remain (protestant purgatory). The idea that because they were not loving and looking for His appearing, they are left to surfer in the Tribulation/purge. (Mt. 14:40-51, 25:13; Mk. 13:33-37; Lk. 20:34‑36, 21:36; I Thess. 5:6; II Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:13; Phil. 3:10-12; Heb. 9:24-28; Rev. 3:3, 12:1-6) These passages misused and misapplied bring confusion concerning Israel & the church.

**The Partial rapture theory is rejected 1.)** It confuses grace with rewards, **2.)** It divides the Bride of Christ at the point of the marriage, here on earth, and in eternity, punishing one part in Tribulation, while rewarding the other for their works, **3.)** It ignores the plenteous proofs of scripture that present the rapture clearly (I Thess. 1:9, 10, 2:19, 4:14‑16, 5:4-11; Rev. 22:12). The most conclusive evidence against this theory is (I Cor. 15:51), written first to the most carnal of the churches, confirming the saved among them were assured.

Another theory gaining popular audience today, **A mid-Tribulation or mid-wrath rapture** which proposes the church “must” experience judgment and Tribulation 3 ½ years into the 7-year Tribulation period.

This position agrees to a seven-year Tribulation period but distinguishes between the first three and one half and the second three- and one-half years and misapplies (Mt. 24:8) to the first period and (Mt. 24:21) to the last period. They place “the partial rapture” at the time presented in (Rev. 11) when the two witnesses are resurrected, obviously confusing satanic wrath and divine wrath.

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NOTE: Nowhere are believers promised to escape suffering, persecution, even martyrdom. But we are assured we will escape divine wrath, that is the very essence of the Tribulation, when God will punish the unbelieving world (Is. 24:1, 63:3-6; Rev. 6:17; I Thess. 1:20, 5:9). Divided Bride? Carnal Christians bodies in the ground, three- and one-half years into the Tribulation.

The Bible clearly teaches Pre-Tribulation rapture of all believers (I Thess. 1:10 and Rom. 5:9). The church is referenced numerous times in Revelation, the first four chapters, then (Rev. 4:1) presents the church removed, then Revelation five the scene is heaven. From Revelation six through nineteen no mention of the church – the Tribulation period, only Israel remains to be persecuted by Satan (Rev. 12). A mid‑Tribulation position eliminates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_48 of Christ’s return presented in a pre-Tribulation position, and creates a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_49 3 ½ years into 7, thus the time of the rapture would be revealed and the time of the second coming, in conflict to (Mt. 24:36), only the event will declare it.

**There are numerous Biblical arguments that confirm the pre-Tribulation rapture position, let’s consider a few…**

1. The only view that allows for literal interpretation of O.T and N.T passages regarding the Tribulation.
2. The only view that clearly distinguishes between Israel and the church in their respective programs.
3. None of the O.T passages on the Tribulation mention the church (Duet. 4:29, 30; Jer. 30:4-11; Daniel 8:24-27, 12:1-2).

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1. None of the N.T passages on the Tribulation mention the church (Mt. 13:30, 39-42, 48-50, 24:15-31; I Thess. 1:9, 10, 5:4-9; II Thess. 2:1-11; Rev. 4:18).
2. The translation of the church is never mentioned in any passage dealing with the second coming of Christ after the Tribulation period.
3. The church is not appointed to wrath (Rom. 4:9; I Thess. 1:9-10, 5:9) or the “great day of wrath” (Rev. 6:17).
4. The whole church is raptured at once (I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:17).
5. The exhortation, to be comforted (I Thess. 4:18), is contradicted by a mid-Tribulation presentation.
6. The Holy Spirit that seals the believers, abides with them continually as the earnest is removed before “the lawless one”, the antichrist is revealed (II Thess. 2:6, 8).
7. The Judgment Seat of Christ, the marriage all take place with the seven-year window prior to the second coming.

**In light of this promise, how are believers to behave?** Be faithful to the church (Heb. 10:25) to the work, the worship, the word of God, our walk, our witness and our watching for His soon appearing. We are to observe the Lord’s Supper with the rapture in mind (I Cor. 11:26). We’re to love the brethren (I Thess. 3:1-13) be patient (James 5:8). Live separated, holy, godly lives (Titus 2:12-13; I Jn. 2:28, 3:2-3). We are to preach the word (II Tim. 4:1-2; I Pt. 5:2, 4), teach and reach the lost, disciple converts, win the lost (Jude 21-23), love God, to live for God, to lift up Christ and draw all men to Him… He is coming soon.