

LEFT BEHIND after the Rapture – Now What?

The IAAW ministry team anticipates that after the Rapture, many will try to debunk or undermine the Rapture teaching by suggesting it cannot be true because many “good people” were left behind. The truth is, many good people *will* be left behind, because James 1:22, 2:14, 2:17, and 2:22 tell us that being good is not good enough to meet God’s standard.

God’s standard is not be good, but rather, be perfect and blameless. Perfect? That’s impossible. True, but God offers help.

We cannot be blameless or perfect on our own. We become holy and blameless only by having a relationship with Jesus Christ not by doing good deeds, no matter how many or how good.

Faithful followers of Jesus are, spiritually, covered by the atoning blood He shed on the cross at Calvary. Jesus’ sacrifice - His work of grace - saves us, not our good deeds.

James clearly points out that although our good deeds or works cannot save us, once we are saved and have a relationship with Christ, we will naturally want to do more good things because Christ lives in us. When we are made blameless by Christ, doing good is what we most want to do.

The Apostle Paul addresses this topic in Ephesians 2:8-9

“for by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Those who believe in Christ and become faithful followers of Christ, are sealed by the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and made blameless and holy by Christ (Eph. 1:4, 2:1-10). In the Rapture, Jesus did not come for the good, He came for the faithful followers – those who were sealed by the Spirit and covered, or made holy, by His blood via being in relationship with Him.

It is important to recognize that if you are reading this after the Rapture, there is still hope for you.

The invitation to become saved, forgiven, and assured of an eternal life in heaven is still open to you. How long this is possible is not clear. Many dangers are coming, and many are already happening. You are not promised tomorrow, but you have an opportunity to become *holy and blameless*, a true Christ-follower, right now.

Do not wallow in regret. Satan is a deceiver. He loves to blind people to truth and is very good at what he does. He deceived Saul before he became Paul. Saul believed it was right to persecute and kill Christians. He deceived Judas into betraying Jesus, though he had witnessed many miracles and heard great teaching. He deceived Cain into killing his brother, Able, though God warned him in a profound encounter. He deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, though she and Adam enjoyed an amazing relationship with God.

Satan is very experienced at what he does, and his plan now is to cover you in guilt, regret, shame, or confusion to either keep you from entering into a relationship with Christ, or compromise your spiritual walk in Christ.

Many good people were left behind, but you know good is not good enough. You must be perfect, but Jesus died on the cross to make you perfect if you will only trust Him. How do you do that—trust Jesus? The first step is to tell Jesus you believe in Him, want to live for Him, and confess your sins to Him (Rom. 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9).

Next, learn from your past – don't dwell or get stuck there, but learn from it. Learn from the hurt – don't rehearse it. Don't play the "what-if" game: What if...I went to church more, I didn't do ____, my ____ told me about Jesus, my ____ didn't give up on me, etc. The bottom line is, excuses do not matter. Accept responsibility for not choosing to "*love God with all your heart, mind, and strength*" (Matt. 22:37). Believe in Jesus (John 3:16) and use your remaining time to do something significant for Him. Live well. Finish well, and you will be rewarded with eternity in heaven. It's not too late.

Once you have given your life to Christ, your goal now is to Finish Well. Please see the Salvation Folder in this Rapture Kit Flash Drive for more material on what that means and how to Finish Well.