Only those people "in Christ" will be Raptured. And only those "in Christ" are promised "no condemnation"... salvation to Heaven instead of Hell (1<sup>st</sup> Thes. 4:16; Romans 8:1) What does it mean to be "in Christ?"

Jesus Christ died to pay for OUR sins. To be "in Christ" means we are to BELIEVE (trust, rely, depend) on the death (shed blood) of Christ ALONE (100%) as the ONLY payment for our sins. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 3:16-18; 14:6). He loves you and does not want you to miss the Rapture or to miss heaven forever with Him.

Will you now abandon all other hope for your personal salvation and BELIEVE (trust, rely, depend) on the death of the Lord Jesus Christ ALONE (100%) as the ONLY payment for your sins and salvation? YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_ Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_

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## Are You Ready?

By Leon Bates

Perhaps you've seen this strange symbol with the arrows and wondered what it is. It represents the next major biblical event to occur on earth..."The Rapture." The Bible, God's Word, says, "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 <u>caught up</u> together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

The word, "Rapture" is a Latin word which means "caught up" as described in the above Scripture. No one can know *WHEN* this event will happen. It could be at any moment, even *today or tonight... while you are asleep.* It will happen so fast, there will be no time to prepare. The Bible says it will happen "in the twinkling of an eye" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51).

The top arrow of the Rapture Symbol represents Christ descending in the clouds and returning to heaven with His "Raptured People." The bottom arrow represents all those people who have put their complete trust in Christ ALONE (100%) for their salvation. They are being "caught up" to meet Him in the air and be with Him forever.

The Rapture is an exciting event for those who have prepared. For the dead who had put their faith in Christ alone for salvation, it will be the time of their "bodily resurrection." At death, their spirit and soul went to be "present with the Lord" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:8). At the Rapture, they will return with Christ to receive their new, glorified, resurrection body (1<sup>st</sup> Thes. 4:14). Then... all who have put their trust in Christ alone for salvation, BUT HAVE NOT YET DIED, will be "changed" into their new glorified resurrection body. This change will be **instant** so they won't realize the experience of a normal physical death (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:51, 52).

Scriptures indicated the Rapture will come **BEFORE** the horrible seven year "Tribulation Judgment" on earth. Jesus said it will be the worst judgment ever, past or future on earth. (Matthew 24:21). It will be the "great day of His wrath" on the Christ rejecting world (Revelation 6:12-17). God has not appointed His true believers to His "wrath" (1<sup>st</sup> Thes. 5:10). Jesus promised to keep His genuine believers "from" that coming event and even the "hour" (time) of it. The word "from" is translated from the Greek word, "EK," which means "out of." (Rev. 3:10)

ARE YOU READY FOR THE RAPTURE? If you are not, or if you are not as SURE as you'd like to be, you may still have time to make sure.