

Corrie Ten Boom's Warning to the Church

Corrie ten Boom (1892 – 1983)

Her Autobiography - "The Hiding Place" (1971), The Movie (1985)

Some extracts
from her 1974 letter



....There are some among us teaching there will be no tribulation, that the Christians will be able to escape all this. These are the false teachers* that Jesus was warning us to expect in the latter days. Most of them have little knowledge of what is already going on across the world. I have been in countries where the saints are already suffering terrible persecution. In China, the Christians were told, "Don't worry, before the tribulation comes you will be translated - raptured." Then came a terrible persecution. Millions of Christians were tortured to death. Later I heard a Bishop from China say, sadly, "We have failed. We should have made the people strong for persecution, rather than telling them Jesus would come first. Tell the people how to be strong in times of persecution, how to stand when the tribulation comes, to stand and not faint."

I feel I have a divine mandate to go and tell the people of this world that it is possible to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are in training for the tribulation, but more than sixty percent of the Body of Christ across the world has already entered into the tribulation. There is no way to escape it. We are next...

.... We need to think about that when we sit down in our nice houses with our nice clothes to eat our steak dinners. Many, many members of the Body of Christ are being tortured to death at this very moment, yet we continue right on as though we are all going to escape the tribulation....

Corrie ends her letter with this encouragement:

How can we get ready for the persecution?

First we need to feed on the Word of God, digest it and make it a part of our being. This will mean disciplined bible study each day as we not only memorise long passages of scripture, but put the principles to work in our lives.

*we believe this is a 'false teaching' & is not necessarily from 'false teachers'

Next we need to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Not just the Jesus of yesterday, the Jesus of History, but the life-changing Jesus of today who is still alive and sitting at the right hand of God.

We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not an optional command of the Bible, it is absolutely necessary. Those earthly disciples could never have stood up under the persecution of the Jews and Romans had they not waited for Pentecost. Each of us needs our own personal Pentecost, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We will never be able to stand in the tribulation without it.

In the coming persecution we must be ready to help each other and encourage each other. But we must not wait until the tribulation comes before starting. The fruit of the Spirit should be the dominant force of every Christian's life.

... Betsy and I were prisoners for the Lord, we were so weak, but we got power because the Holy Spirit was on us. That mighty inner strengthening of the Holy Spirit helped us through. No, you will not be strong in yourself when the tribulation comes. Rather, you will be strong in the power of Him who will not forsake you. For seventy six years I have known the Lord Jesus and not once has He ever left me, or let me down. Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. (Job 13:15) I know that to all who overcome, He shall give the crown of life. Hallelujah!

- Corrie Ten Boom - 1974

What Day are You Eagerly Waiting For?

as you wait for (expect, look for) and hasten the coming of the day of God when the heavens will be dissolved by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. 2 Peter 3:12



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WHAT ABOUT the Rapture of the Church?

is the 'secret' rapture biblical?

post-tribulation or
pre-tribulation Rapture?
and why it matters!

The Second Coming Bible Study Series

The Rapture

When will the rapture occur?

The Thessalonian church were suffering severe persecution.

Five coloured points from this scripture clearly tell us:

Relief from the Thessalonians persecution [& ours] will come, NOT at a 'secret' rapture, but WHEN? The very day when Jesus is revealed to bring judgement AND to be glorified in His saints

2 Thessalonians 1:4,5 & 7-10

4 ...in all your persecution and afflictions that you endure.

5 ...so that you will be considered worthy of God's kingdom for which you are suffering.

7 [God will] ...give relief (rest) to you who are afflicted, and to us as well, [when?] WHEN the Lord Jesus will be REVEALED* from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire,

8 inflicting retribution (punishment) to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [the day of God's wrath, 'the day of the Lord']

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all those who have believed, including you, for our testimony to you was believed.

Here we have

an unquestionably clear scripture telling us that:

Rest and deliverance for the church [us] will come on the very same day that Jesus returns and is revealed to bring judgement.

It tells us conclusively; there is no 'secret' rapture! The rapture and the coming of Jesus is one event.

* 1 Thes. 4:16, Acts 1:11, 2 Tim. 4:1, Heb. 9:28, Matt. 24:30

Parentheses = (fuller meaning of the greek word from Strong's Concordance)
Brackets = [clarifying comments, which are kept to a minimum]

Jesus tells us that the rapture of the church is after the tribulation

and that it is not a 'secret' rapture!

Also, Six coloured points clearly show us that 1 Thess. 4 & Matt. 24 are describing the same event.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

14 ...even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep (died) in Jesus.

15 This we tell you by the word of the Lord, WE WHO are alive, WHO are left TILL the coming of the Lord, [not till a 'secret' rapture] will not precede those who have fallen asleep (died).

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, 17 then we who are alive who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet* [greet] the Lord in the air. [the rapture] So we will be with the Lord forever.

* Strong's Concordance Definition: "the act of meeting, to meet; a phrase seemingly almost technical for the reception of a newly arrived official"

Matthew 24:29-31

29 Immediately after the tribulation [also Mk.13:24] of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; 30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the people of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send out His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, will gather together His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. [the rapture]

Jesus said

the 'rapture' will be "after the tribulation" NOT before! NOT half way through, but after! On what authority can anyone say otherwise?

There is no 'secret' rapture; all the earth will see, Jesus will shout, and with the voice of the archangel and with God's trumpet!

The six coloured comparative points above show that

1 Thess. 4 & Matt. 24 are clearly the same event.

The Rapture & the Day of the Lord

Five coloured points from scripture clearly tell us:

The rapture & 'the day of the Lord' are the same day. The rapture will occur after the 'falling away' & after the 'man of sin' is revealed & 'at the LAST trumpet'. We need to live ready for the day of the Lord [with its judgement "upon them"] not a 'secret' rapture!

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 Now concerning (regarding) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him (the rapture) we ask you, brothers; 2 not to be easily shaken in mind or troubled, by any spirit or message or letter presuming to be from us and alleging that the day of the Lord [Joel 2:31] has already come. 3 Let no one DECEIVE YOU in any way, for IT [the day of the Lord] will not come until the falling away occurs and the man of sin, the son of destruction, is revealed.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-5

2 For you are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But YOU brothers, are not in darkness, that the day [of the Lord] [not a 'secret' rapture] would overtake YOU [them or us today!] like a thief, 5 for you are all sons of light.

1 Corinthians 15:51&52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but WE [the church] will all be changed, [when?] 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST* trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, [on the 'LAST* day', Jn.6:40,44 & 11:24] and we will be changed. [the rapture]

* The 'last day' is the LAST day. The last trumpet is the LAST trumpet, there is no other trumpet after this!

The modern 'secret' rapture theory was not believed or taught for the first 1800 years of church history. It is less than 200 years old.

It was not believed by the reformers & many others like Spurgeon, Finney, Whitefield and Wesley. They were all solid post-tribulation believers.