

This morning I would like to consider with you for a few minutes the subject of the rapture of the church. There's a church not many miles from here that was founded about 30 years ago, a church that stands for the Word of God and it has had ministers ever since who have believed the Bible is true, and have believed in most of the great fundamentals. Ten years ago a woman from that church talked to me. She had gone to that church because of its strong stand for the Word of God. She was a member about 20 years. She said in that 20 years, the minister-- I don't know whether there were two or three in that time -- but she said in that time she had never heard a single sermon on the second coming of Christ. She had gone to the minister and asked him to bring a sermon on Christ's second coming, and he had put her off with pleasant words but did not preach anything about this subject.

There have been books written in recent years saying that the idea of the rapture of the church is a new idea. The thought of somebody 100 or 150 years ago of a rather demented young woman in Scotland, I believe who in her prayer expressed this idea and all this business about the rapture of the church has come from that! There have been a number of quite controversial books written about the subject. Is it something new, something people have not thought of till recent years, or is the rapture of the church clearly taught in Scripture. Of course this word rapture can be very misleading. I don't think there are many people who are not Christians who would have any idea