

So he goes on to tell what is going to happen: The Lord himself will 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. So those who come with the Lord, those spirits of those who have died in the Lord they will receive their resurrection bodies before we who remain receive ours but not much before. We will not precede them. They won't precede us by very much. He says they will rise first and then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up -- there's the word rapture. We will be caught up together with them in clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Men who believe the Bible and preach the Word of God have gone through years of true Christian preaching and never comforted anybody with these words which Paul says we should use to comfort one another at the time of death and bereavement. We should know that He is coming back, he is coming with ^a shout, with ^{the} voice of ^{the} archangel, with ^{the} trump of God, and we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with those who have already died in the clouds and we shall be with the Lord.

Paul gave to the Thessalonians there not many years after Christ had ascended into heaven, he gave them these words for their comfort, for their hope, for their assurance. They are to be ready and watching in order that when Jesus comes they will be ready to meet Him.

There are many who discuss what's going to happen before the rapture. What's going to happen before the Lord