

# The Eternal City

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Revelation 21:1-27

## Overcomers Will Inherit the Eternal City

- Overcomers will enjoy enhanced fellowship with God (vv. 1-3)
- Overcomers will enjoy liberation from sin's curse (vv. 4-8)
- Overcomers will enjoy eternal security (vv. 9-27)

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

### DISCOVER

1. What are some of the reasons for people having different interpretations of scripture? Is it possible for different interpretations of scripture to all be true? Explain your reasoning. What are the risks associated with thinking some scriptures don't make sense so they should not be taken literally? Why might some look for hidden meaning when they could take scripture literally?
2. When reading the Bible or listening to a teacher of the Word, how should we try and understand the intent of the message? Have you ever changed your mind about the meaning of a verse(s)? What prompted the change in understanding? How should Life Groups help each other with reasoning as the Word is explored? What part does humility play in being willing to change your perspective?
3. What is needed for you to be confident when looking at scripture especially when focusing on the rapture or the book of Revelation? What are some of the explanations for not taking the rapture as fact?

### EXPLORE

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Some don't believe in the rapture of the dead and believers. Is the scripture "caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" a clear statement or is there room for more than one meaning? Why should we be so focused on agreement with the rapture being Biblical? Why should we be patient and good listeners with those who may see some scriptures differently than you?
2. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 instructs us to "comfort one another with these words"? Why is comfort with words so important? Whether a believer is new to the faith or someone that has walked with the Lord for decades, how does scripture provide hope and comfort?
3. Read Philippians 3:7-16. With the rapture coming, we are to be about His work. How was Paul approaching working for God as his mission? What transformation would be needed for you to be like Paul as taught in these verses? Why was it important for Paul to combine work on his own faith while teaching others? How did Jesus work on his relationship with the Father while offering salvation to all who would believe?

### EXPERIENCE

1. Since the rapture is coming, what should we be doing? Colossians 3:2 says, "set your mind on the things above". How does this inform our call to action in sharing the Good News? Ask yourself why your heart doesn't bleed more for unbelievers. Share why that might be an area for you to grow.
2. What joy has been set before you? How does suffering for God conform us to the likeness of Jesus? How will you share joy this week, whether in suffering or sharing loving words?

### PRAY

*Pray... Father God, reveal the singular truth of your Word to us as we endeavor to carry out the Great Commission. May we be found worthy because we find it irresistible to share your love with those who need Your comfort. You are all we need and all that we need to share. Amen.*