

3. How can I keep from being discouraged by Christians whom I know who are not living the Christian life as God meant it to be lived?

It is discouraging to see this happen in the lives of other believers, especially when you know what they're missing by not enjoying all that God has for them.

Do you have any suggestions for this young person?

Yes. First, while I realize that you can't help looking at others, keep your eyes on the Lord. The writer of the book of Hebrews said in the 12th chapter, keep your eyes on Jesus who is the perfecter of your faith and run your race with endurance. Others can sometimes encourage you and sometimes discourage you, so look to the Lord for your help. Second, remember that each believer is personally and individually responsible to God for how he lives his life. And third, I hope your Christian life is so vibrant and happy in the Lord that your Christian friends who are not living for the Lord will see that you have something they will want. In other words, let your life attract them to a closer walk with the Lord, and may the Lord bless you and help you to do this.

4. Here's a down-to-earth question for a young person who's bothered by something related to the communion service. The person asks: During communion, what are you supposed to be saying about when you take the bread and ~~the~~ cup, and bow your head?

That is an honest question, and I'm glad you felt free to ask it. Actually, there is nothing in the Bible passages ~~about~~ about the ~~communion~~ Lord's supper that says you have to pray while the bread and cup are being passed around. The Lord did tell us to remember Him during the service, and many people take that time to meditate and pray. ~~and the meaning of the bread and the cup~~ It is a good time to think about and be thankful for all that the Lord did for you when He died on the cross. So if you would like to use the time to pray, try thanking the Lord for all that He means for you.

Are there other things a person might properly do during the service?

Certainly. Although the basic form of the service has been outlined for us in the Bible, there's no set pattern about what you ought to be doing during those quiet moments during the service. Some people like to read the Bible. Or sometimes the pastor will read appropriate passages out loud. I do think you ought to focus your thoughts or prayers on the Lord, and not be daydreaming, but however you do that is largely up to you. Remember Him. That's what it's all about.

5. A listener who heard you answer a previous question writes: why do you believe in the rapture of the church when the word rapture is never used in the Bible?

Our listener is correct: the word rapture is not used in the Bible. It's an English word that comes directly from a Latin word that means to seize or snatch away. We use it today when speaking about being seized or overwhelmed with emotion. Like He's enraptured with the music. He's been caught up in the music. So when we speak of the rapture of the church we mean the catching away of the church from earth to heaven.

What word is used in the Bible for the rapture of the church?

in 1 Thess 4:17 our English Bibles say "caught up". In the Latin Bible ~~this~~ rapture is the word used. Of course, both the Latin and English translate the original Greek word that means the same: to catch up. Some day all believers in Christ ^{who are alive} will be caught up with those who have died to meet the Lord in the air and to be with Him forever. Whether or not it is best to label that event the rapture, that event is going to happen just as sure as anything. Some will be caught up, raptured, and some will not. Better be sure you'll be among those who will be taken to meet the Lord when He comes. And you can be sure if you receive JC as your personal Savior.