SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

MORNING MESSAGE
"Here He Comes – Riding on the Clouds"
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I.   THE REVELATION OF HIS COMING (vv.13-15a)
   A.   The Bible plainly teaches that Jesus will come again
      1.   The second coming is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament
      2.   Every gospel writer mentions the second coming
      3.   Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians says something about the second coming
   B.   When Jesus ascended to heaven, the angel announced, "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11)
      1.   He will come personally – "this same Jesus"
      2.   He will come positively – "shall so come"
      3.   He will come powerfully – "in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"

II.   THE RESURRECTION AT HIS COMING (vv.15b-16)
   A.   There will be an order at His coming
      1.   First, the Lord will descend from heaven
      2.   Second, the Lord will shout
      3.   Third, there will be the voice of the archangel
      4.   Fourth, there will be the trump of God
      5.   Fifth, the dead in Christ will rise

III.   THE RAPTURE AT HIS COMING (v.17a)
   A.   After the "dead in Christ" are caught up, the believers who are alive will be caught up
      1.   "Caught up" literally means "to snatch away"; it means to take suddenly without warning
      2.   Paul told the Corinthians, "We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump" (1 Corinthians 15:52)
         a.   "Twinkling" describes a rapid movement

IV.   THE REUNION AT HIS COMING (v.17b)
   A.   When Jesus comes again there will be a heavenly reunion
      1.   It will be an elevated reunion
         a.   "Meet" occurs three times in scripture: Matthew 25:1; Acts 28:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:17
         b.   It means to meet a dignitary or a person of elevated status, as of royalty
      2.   It will be an eternal reunion
         a.   "So shall we ever be with the Lord"
         b.   Wherever you spend eternity, you will be there forever