

The Rapture (Clip)

by Leonard Ravenhill

Leonard Ravenhill's sermon challenges the notion that American Christians will escape suffering, highlighting the harsh realities faced by believers in oppressive regimes.

Duration: 4:58

Scripture: Matthew 5:10

Topics: "Persecution", "Tribulation"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the reality of suffering and persecution faced by Christians in various parts of the world, contrasting it with the comfort and complacency often experienced in more privileged societies. It challenges the notion of being exempt from hardship due to faithfulness and warns against false teachings that promise escape from suffering, highlighting the need for genuine faith and readiness to endure tribulations.

Transcript

There's a little man, some of you read his book, God's Smuggler. How many of you read his book, God's Smuggler? Wonderful, exciting book. I know that little man, he said, I gave him that title before he put the book together.

I said, well, you're God's Smuggler. And he had been over in China. And he said when he was in Shanghai, he noticed men sitting on the side of the road.

They'd been for a haircut. And when their hair was cut, they left a cross in the middle of their head. And cut it, the package out, left their hair standing up in a cross there.

And then they had to sit on the sidewalk. And a young communist came past and hoisted all the flesh they could have spat on their heads. The church tonight is suffering untold agony.

You listen to the sweet little boys over the radio. They'll tell you that the Russians are going to come and burn the country up and they're going to put us into hell itself. But you know, you little darlings, you being so faithful, you're so filled with your fasting and your homes are so poor and poverty stricken and you haven't two dimes to your name and you're so stricken and helpless that just out of His great mercy, the Lord's going to rapt you out of it so you won't have to suffer one little step.

All the suffering is for the Christians in Russia and the Christians in China. But no body in America is going to suffer because we're the most faithful people on God's earth. Isn't that lovely? Well, the man who tells you that is a liar.

Our old preacher was in Shanghai and when he was there, because he had preached, pardon me, he was in Formosa and because he had preached in Shanghai 20 years before and found the Chinese people were in Shanghai, were in Formosa where they are now, he went in to see them and he greeted them in his eloquent Chinese and they ignored him and he said, but I'm the pastor. I used to teach you in Shanghai and they ignored him. And he said, now look, this isn't oriental courtesy.

What in the world are you doing? I'm your pastor. One man looked up from his busy work and just frowned and said, you're a false prophet. A what? You're a false... A false prophet? Why, I gave you lectures on Mormonism and the other reasons.

I am not a false... We remember when you were our pastor in Shanghai and you had some maps of the world and some wonderful pictures of the Roman Empire and you had a marvellous chart on the Antichrist and you had some more on the dispensations and you told us beforehand we were going to be washing blood here in China that led to the most gross humiliation and suffering it was possible to have. But you said, don't you worry about that because just before that happens the Lord's going to take all his dear little children out from this. You're not going to suffer.

The man said with tears streaming down his face my wife was dragged out of my arms and the last time I heard she'd had three children to the Russian guards. My daughter was taken away and my sons and my children were taken away. You told us everything that was true except one thing.

We won't snatch out of this misery. The Lord didn't spare us. We're living in anguish and suffering.

Oh, we're living here now in a little bit of ease and comfort but there's nothing that can bind up our broken hearts. No money, no creature comforts. Our wives are gone.

Our children are gone. Our churches are gone. Our homes are gone.

Everything is gone. You're a false prophet. We can't listen to you.

You'd better watch it, Peter because one day you might go into concentration camp and some of your church members spit on you for saying the same thing. It's easier to stand up and say excitedly we glory in tribulation and infirmity in necessities than you go home and have a steak dinner this size and put your feet up and watch the Rams play Sunday afternoon and feel that you've really got another star in your crown because, oh well, very reluctantly you did go to church Sunday night. Not many people do do that, you know and that really proves I'm a saint.

Sure does. Oh, brother, we're heading for trouble, I'll tell you.

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