

# KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING!

- Christians have divided throughout history over issues and beliefs that are not ‘the main thing’.
- What is the MAIN THING?
  - The GOSPEL: the GOOD NEWS of Jesus
  - JN 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but receive eternal life.”*

# ISSUE #1: THE RAPTURE

- What is the RAPTURE?  
1 THESS 4:16,17 – MATT 24:37-42
- What is the problem with this?
  - Not really supported by a plain reading of the Bible
  - Can be used to frighten people into becoming a Christian
  - Can cause people to predict dates and then do crazy things!

# ISSUE #2: ISRAEL

- What do some understand about ISRAEL?
- What is the problem with this?
  - The NT says God has taken away His favour from Israel and offered salvation to all (the Gentiles) through Jesus:  
JOHN 14:6
  - The NT writers consider the Church to be God's new Israel:  
1 PET 2:9,10
  - Things that were fulfilled PHYSICALLY in the Old Covenant are now fulfilled in SPIRITUALLY in the New Covenant
- But God still loves the Jews and longs for them to believe Jesus and be saved: ROM 11

# ISSUE #3: CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

- What is meant by CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM?
- What is the problem with this?
  - The Bible makes clear that God will not build His kingdom by human means, including politics  
ZEPH 4:6 *'Not by might, nor by strength but by My Spirit'*
  - In New Covenant, God does not choose certain nations above others – or certain races above others.  
God's purposes are focused on His church:  
EPH 3:10

# LET'S KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING!

- KEEP our focus on Jesus and His Gospel
- LOVE God and LOVE one another, as Jesus commanded.
- Maintain UNITY – respecting the different views each of us as Christians have on a range of issues.