

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

### **Solace: The Second Coming Of The Lord Jesus**

#### **Introduction**

1. Paul's Usual Epistolary Format: Greetings, Doctrine, Implications and Application of Doctrine, Conclusion
2. 1 Thessalonians is Opposite: Greetings, Christian Life in light of Doctrinal Truth Revealed at the End
3. Up to this Point, the Lord has revealed what the Christian Life looks like Before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
4. Paul's Aim in this Letter: **(1 Thess 1:3, 10) → Hope!**
5. Paul answers a Pastoral Concern: What happens to those who die before the Lord Returns?
6. There is a Future Event Ahead of Us, and for the Whole Human Race – Jesus is Coming Again!

#### **Main Point of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**Be comforted in grief at the passing of a Christian. Their soul is present with the Lord, and their bodies will unite to their souls when Jesus returns. Those who are dead in Christ and we who are alive in Christ will be changed as we meet Christ in the air at His Second Coming.**

#### **Be Comforted (vv 13, 15a, 18)**

1. There is a Crisis in Thessalonica – They are Ignorant of Certain Truths of the Gospel (**v 13**)
2. What is Troubling the Thessalonians? Loved Ones have Died & Jesus has not Returned... What happens to our Loved Ones?
3. They are looking for the Lord and His Royal Day of Visitation to Judge and Discern and Reward
4. Waiting on Christ (**1:10, 2:19**) – Active, Serving, Sense of Urgency and Expectation
5. Edify, Exhort, and Encourage One Another with the Fact of the Second Advent – It Is Our Certain Hope!
6. Paul Encourages and Comforts them in the Lord by giving an answer for the Certain Hope he has! (**v 15a**)

#### **Asleep In Christ (v 13)**

1. Death is a Reality in this Life; We face it Every Day
2. Death is not the Final Stage of Life
3. Real Grief, but Not as those Who Have No Hope
4. For the Christian: Our Blessed Hope – **Ps 116:15**
5. Sleep is another word for Death
  - a. Jairus' 12 y/o Daughter (**Mt 9, Mk 5, Lk 8**)
  - b. Lazarus (**John 11**)
6. Sleep – not final, but rest until body is awakened

#### **The Fact Of One ASSURES The Fact Of The Other (v 14)**

1. Jesus Rose, So Will The Dead in Christ Rise
2. Sleep is a Comforting Word – A state in which the Christian will not come to any Harm
3. Body sleeps, but the Soul is Conscious and With the Lord in an Intermediate State (Between Death and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ)
  - a. **2 Cor 5:8, Luke 23:43, Phil 1:22-23**

#### **The Second Coming & The Rapture (vv. 14b-18)**

1. Looming – Apostles thought it Would happen in their Lifetime; Imminent – Dead will Rise First (**v 15, 16b**)
2. Loud – **Verses 16-17**
  - a. *Rapture* – Word not in the Bible; Means to Catch Up; Will be Sudden (Philip and Enoch)
  - b. Not a 2 Stage Event; The Second Coming and Rapture Happen at the Same Time
  - c. *To Meet* Him in the Clouds/Air: The Word *Meet* in Greek – to go out on the road and meet a delegate and usher them into the city
  - d. *The Trumpet* = The Lord is Here! (Sinai, Joel 2 and Pentecost, The Second Advent)
  - e. *The Air* – The prince of the power of the air will be triumphed over; limited power undone
3. Transforming – **1 Cor 15, Phil 3:20-21**
4. Public & Personal – Jesus will Himself Come with His Holy Ones, and All will See Him (**Rev 1:7**)
5. Comforting – **v 18**; We will Always be with the Lord