

I. Hope - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

1. Paul firmly believed in the second coming of Jesus (**verse 13**)
 - he pushed others to so believe
2. "Uninformed"
 - about what? - about those who have died ("sleep in death")
 - this is the Greek term for physical sleep
 - Jesus used this image for Lazarus in John 11:11-15
3. Don't grieve... like the rest of the world
 - they have no hope
 - grief (in itself) is not a bad thing but a good one
- Rea
 - much damage (psychotically) is done for persons to press their families not to cry... after all Jesus wept
- Rea
 - the train of thought... how can we not grieve like others?
4. For we believe (**verse 14**)
 - A. Jesus died and rose
 - B. Jesus will bring the dead in Christ with Him
- Rea
 - "Fallen asleep in Him" - notice
5. Those who have died before Jesus second coming are at no disadvantage
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Some believe as if they have "no hope" - we have hope that Jesus will return... and bring our loved ones with Him
 2. Grief without hope - discuss what that is
 - we have grief over the loss of a job, a marriage, a child to a wayward lifestyle
 3. Hope in the face of death
 4. It is good to grieve - it shows you care
 - it might be a good Sunday to discuss the stages of grief
 5. Some blame God for the death of their loved one... you might talk about that as well

II. Return - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

1. According to the Lord's word (**verse 15**)
 - this message was not Paul's own
 - so the teaching of the parousia carries the Divine authority
- Rea
 - why do so many preachers leave out the Second Coming? - that certainly leaves people "uninformed" and "hopeless"
2. The sequence of events for Christ' return
 - A. The Lord will descend (**verse 16**)
 - with a trump
 - with a loud voice (archangel)
 - B. The dead in Christ will rise first
 - C. Those who are still alive will be caught up - ascend (verse 17)
- Rea
 - 3. We "all come out to meet Him when He comes"
 - when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem (Palm Sunday events) a group came with Him, and a group came out to meet Him - I love a parade
4. Sounds:

A. A loud command - the voice of the archangel
-a military command - such a command was given when it was time to move out

B. A trumpet call

-trumpets commonly used to announce events

Rea -a trumpet in the Old Testament when the children of Israel packed up the Tabernacle and moved out

Rea -used when attacked by an enemy

Rea -used to call the Israelites together for the reading of the word, etc.

5. The dead in Christ will rise first

Rea -“in Christ” within the realm of His work, person, ministry - within His kingdom

Rea **Ideas and Commands:**

1. Old Testament trumpet:

-move out - like the New Testament move UP

-announce a Word from God - its time to move UP

-announce an attack - the Great Tribulation begins

2. Do you find the Second Coming comforting - it was taught for that purpose

-assuming it was also taught because it was true - dugh

3. Without the teaching of the Second Coming we have robbed believers of this “hope”

III. Reunion - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

1. The sequence continues “after that” (**verse 17**)

-caught up - “rapture together”

-as Jesus ascended so will we

2. Will occur in the “clouds”

-clouds are often associated with the presence of the Lord

3. Meet the Lord in the air

-in the Greek such wording was used of meeting a dignitary

4. After united we will live with the Lord in the air forever

-He promised to be with us always... this will begin a new stage

Rea 5. Left out here is the idea that Jesus will return in the form of Holy Spirit - see John 14 and John 16 where the “comforter” is discussed

-we are not left “orphans” - John 14

6. Be encouraged by this (**verse 18**)

Rea -they are worried about themselves or their departed loved ones?

Rea -how did this “encourage” them?

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. The idea is often floated - that the departed are in a purgatory state... somewhere

-the word “paradise” is used to teach this today

-“paradise” is mentioned in Revelation as another word for heaven

-here, they come “with the Lord” - Jesus told the thief on the cross today you will be “with me”

-here, these departed believers come “with the Lord”

2. Where is heaven - up in the clouds?

3. In Matthew 24 Jesus taught us that He did not know when these events would transpire - if Jesus is not into dates and times, I should not be either - so why is this such an important teaching today?
4. Its not important to know the when, but it is important to know that it will happen... 2
Thessalonians says that we are not like the world that this Coming catch us napping

Bob Bunn - SS Lesson for April 10, 2022