

In A Moment

INAM-08 “DON’T BE UNINFORMED”

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“THE DOCTRINE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS”

1 THESS 4:13-18 “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Here in **1 THESSALONIANS 4**, Paul wishes them to remember things which he has previously taught... things which are important to their proper understanding of the “**Catching Away (Rapture)**” of the Church. Their misunderstanding of this “**doctrine**” has led some into confusion, and others into disillusionment and fear. The Apostle Paul, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, has determined that it is necessary for these young Believers to have a proper knowledge of these things.

So, also, should we!

THE NEED TO KNOW

1 THESS 4:13 “But **we do not want you to be uninformed**, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

➤ **Uninformed...** - “**Agnoeo**” – **to NOT Know / be ignorant of / be mistaken / to ignore instruction** -

This word should demand our attention. It means that there is **something** we SHOULD know but we might NOT know [**we are uneducated**]. Or it might be **something** we HAVE BEEN told to which we are not paying proper attention [**we are ignoring**]. In either case we need to correct the problem.

Paul uses this word on a number of instances in his **LETTERS** to direct the believers to pay attention to, or to remind them of, what follows: See ROMANS 1:13; 11:25; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1; 10:1; 12:1; 2 Co 1:8; 2:11.

To Paul (to God) knowledge is important. It both precedes, and follows “faith”. It brings education in God’s purpose, His plan, His Word. It brings the “basis” upon which we might find stability. And it brings the comfort of knowing we are “secure” in Christ.

The NT writers wanted Believers to “know” what God had done, what He will do, and how He wanted us to live in this life. AND, **He wanted us to “know” what was to come...**

The Church at Thessalonica was a “new” Church. It was the **2nd Church** Paul established it on his **2nd Journey**. We find the brief record in ACTS 17:1-9. It is stated he ministered for 3 Sabbath Days in the Synagogue, and then was banned. It is unclear how much longer Paul ministered in the City, but it was long enough to establish a **fairly complete foundation in New Testament Doctrine**. In both Letters he refers to many truths to which he expects them to be familiar... only offering clarity, correction, and encouragement.

ONE of those doctrines Paul must have emphasized in his teaching and explaining was regarding the **“End Times”**. In both **LETTERS** he refers to the **catching away / gathering unto Him**; the **Tribulation**; and **The 2nd Coming**. These are often subjects that are ignored in our modern-day Churches. Paul considered them **“vital”** ... even to **“New Believers.”**

2 THESS 2:1-3A **“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way...”**

2 THESS 2:5 **“Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things?”**

It is obvious that Paul must have spent significant time giving them details regarding **the Tribulation, the Antichrist, The Abomination of Desolations, and the 2nd Coming**.

SO... here in **1 THESS 4:13-18**, and then into **1 THESS 5:1-11**, Paul is encouraging the Saints to regard the instruction he had given. **The Lord’s Coming for the Saints**, and **His Coming to Judge the World** are **NOT the same event**.

- The **Believers** await a time of **joy, comfort, restoration, reunion, and Eternal Peace**.
- The **Unbelievers** will face a time of **great fear, suffering, and judgment**. The **“wrath”** of God.

Don’t be Uninformed...

➤ **“That you may not grieve...”**

A Different Grief – Not the same as others... Non-Believers

- **“To not be subject to a grief...”**
- **As other ones** – Lit: **“the residue...”** - those who are not like you
- **To be Subjected to a condition of “No Hope”** –
- **“Grief”** is not the issue... **“Hopelessness”** is...
- The **“Need”** is to be **“Informed”** to what follows... Without this **“Knowledge”** grief will rule

THOSE FALLEN ASLEEP

1 THESS 4:14-15 **“For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.**

¹⁵ **For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”**

➤ **OUR ASSURANCE**

Since we believe... – a statement of the 1st Condition: “IF and it is TRUE...”

- Paul uses this instruction to bring comfort and re-assurance to the Believers...
- The **“foundation”** of our comfort comes from our faith in Jesus Christ...
- This assurance is **simple**: **“that Jesus died and rose again...”**
- It does not require a level of **knowledge**... a record of **obedience**... nor any **effort** on their part...
- JUST that: **“We Believe...”**

➤ **“HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP”** – **Aor/Pass** – **this is not something they DID, but that happened TO them...**

This must have been a common phrase in the Church for those Believers who had died:

Vs 16B **“And the dead in Christ shall rise first...”** – referring to the same group as **“asleep”**

- They ARE **“physically dead”** – **not just in a separate state of existence...**

- They are “*asleep*” because this is NOT their final state... their ultimate existence
 - To the ancient people “*the dead*” still existed – just not as physically apparent
 - The word “Hades” means “*unseen*” – the realm of “*the dead*”
- They will “awake – arise – be resurrected” – THEY will NOT remain in the place of the “Unseen”

➤ “BRING WITH HIM...”

IF the “*ones who have fallen asleep*” will not be resurrected until the “arrival/catching away/rapture”...

- WHO are the ones “*God will bring with Him...*” WHEN He comes?
- Are those who are “*fallen asleep*” IN the grave... OR are they IN Heaven?

2 COR 5:1-9 *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

⁶ *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”*

PHIL 1:21-23 *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”*

2 COR 12:2-4 *“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up [Harpagmos - raptured] to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.”*

➤ Our Hope... “THE RESURRECTION”

This “Hope” that brings comfort to those who grieve is anchored in the promise of “resurrection”

- The “JEWISH RESURRECTION” was fixated upon that which would occur at the “End of the Age” – THE 2ND COMING – when they would be raised to enter the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF THE MESSIAH
- The Promise of “CHRISTIAN RESURRECTION” is two-fold... –
 - Resurrection WITH CHRIST in the New Birth – *to be seated with Christ in the Heavens*
 - Resurrection of the “Body” which will take place at the “*Catching Away – Rapture*” of the Believers just before the time of TRIBULATION...
- The “Blessed Hope”

TITUS 2:13 *“...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”*

1 JOHN 3:2-3 *Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

The End Times Chart

"THE PRE-TRIBULATIONAL ... PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWPOINT"

