

Life after Life

Message #8

Our
Hope



1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Chapter 5

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Heaven

- Multi-faceted word
- Paul talked about the 3rd Heaven

3 Heavens

- 1st: Our Atmosphere
- 2nd: Outer Space
- 3rd: Spirit Realm

Heaven

- Jesus came to reveal mysteries about The Kingdom of Heaven (“....is like”)
- Jesus said for us to pray, “on earth as it is in Heaven” (both for now & forever)
- Jesus said “The Kingdom is within you”

Hope

- People: Hope or Wish
- Bible: a confident conviction of a good outcome based upon Jesus' promises

Hope anchors us.

Hope helps us stay pure & faithful.

**“concerning those who
have fallen asleep,
lest you sorrow as others
who have no hope”**

- **Hope needs to be mixed in
with the believer’s grief.**



**What happens if hope is not mixed
into the grieving heart?**

**You can get stuck in grief
Pain can become unbearable**

- **God gave us tears!**
- **God gave us hope!**



Jesus Weeps

John 11

- Lazarus has died
- Jesus is going to their house
- Martha & Jesus have a conversation about death & resurrection.

**Jesus proclaims to her,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may
die, he shall live.
Do you believe this?"**



Jesus Weeps

- a) Jesus **wept** (vs 35)
= Cry intensely because of grief or pain

- b) Jesus **groaning & troubled** (vs 33, 38)
 - = to be intensely angry
 - = be disturbed & under distress

What is Jesus so mad at?



- It's right to weep and be angry.
 - Follow Jesus and point that anger at Death.

How do you not get stuck?

- Jesus had already rubbed into his heart and this family the Hope of Resurrection.

**Our Grief must be
mixed with Hope!**



**What is the
HOPE
that needs to be
mixed into
our hearts?**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, **even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

“even so God will bring with Him (Jesus) those who sleep in Jesus (our loved ones).”

When Jesus returns, our loved ones who died in Christ, will be with Jesus bc they are with Him now.

- **“absent from the body, PRESENT with the LORD”**



1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:17a

17 Then **we who are alive and
remain shall be caught up
together with them
in the clouds...**

Our Hope #2

“we....together with them”

Life After Life for followers of Jesus, will be spent together with our loved ones.

- **Greatest Family Reunion of all time!**
- **Part of what makes Life After Life glorious is who we get to spend it with!**

1 Thessalonians 4:17a

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet the Lord** in the air. And thus **we shall always be with the Lord.**

Cultural Picture

- “caught up” (idea of snatched up or raptured)
- “meet the LORD” (like run out to meet Him)
- “in the clouds”
- “in the air”

**When Caesar or a
Victorious General
came to town**



Our Hope #3

“we shall always be with the LORD”

We will all spend eternity together in the presence of Jesus.

- **“in Your presence is fullness of Joy and at Your right hand are pleasures evermore.” (Psalm 16:11)**

A Transformation Will Take Place

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then **I shall know just as I also am known.**

- I shall know Jesus (know = to experience)
- I will know that I am **fully known & fully loved.**
- This is the LOVE we've been longing for.
- **LOVE is our future!**

**Comfort one another
with these words.**

What a Day that Will Be