

The Church and The Blessed Hope
“The Blessed Hope”
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Introduction - In spite of all the great advancements in man’s knowledge, with his ability to unlock many of the mysteries of the universe, he still lacks a knowledge of what lies beneath the grave!

Job, “If a man die, shall he live again?” How about you today? “If you die....?” or better, “When you die...?”

Paul is writing these words for two very important reasons, vs. 13.

1. He doesn’t want us to be ignorant about death, vs. 13.
2. He wants us to have hope, vs. 13.

So Paul gives us five reasons for hope! Even in the face of death!

What is hope? It is a joyful and confident expectation of eternal life through Jesus Christ.”

I. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, vs. 14

“If we believe,” the big question, vs. 14.

What are we to believe?

1. That Jesus died. His crucifixion.
 But why did He die? For our sins!
2. That Jesus rose again. His resurrection.

Jesus said , “because I live you shall live also.” “Christ resurrection is the hope of all humanity.”

Do you believe?

II. The Revelation of God’s Word, vs. 15.

“For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord.”

There are only three ways to know what happens after death.

1. Human Speculation!
 - a. Death ends it all - how can you be sure? What if you’re wrong.
 - b. Reincarnation
 - c. Good people go to heaven!
2. You must experience death.
3. Divine revelation - “the word of the Lord”

1. For the believer in Jesus!
2. For the unbeliever in Jesus, Heb. 9:27.

Three kinds of death!

Where will you be 10 minutes after you die? You can know!

III. The Return of the Lord, vs. 16

It's the blessed hope, Titus 2:13.

Jesus promised to come again, John 14

He's coming first for His church! True Believers

Is it getting close? Yes!

1. Israel reestablished as a nation May 14, 1948.
2. A 10 nation conference, European Union.
3. A world leader. One world.
4. The need for the world bank to have international regulations. Mark of the Beast, 666.
5. Spiritism and the rise of the occult!
6. The apostasy of the professing church.
7. The cry for peace in the Middle East.
8. Perilous times - "Lovers of their own-selves," "lovers of money," "without family love," "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

Jesus said, "Be ready...when you think not."

Are you ready?

When the Lord comes for His people, what happens?

IV. The Resurrection of the Dead in Christ, vs. 16

You say, I thought they were in Heaven? Yes, it's the body!

Note: "Sleep" vv. 13-15.

Rom. 8:23 "We are waiting for the adoption to wit, the redemption of our body."

V. The Rapture of the Living in Christ, vs. 17

I Cor. 15:51-55

Note: vs. 17, "together with them"

"So shall we ever be with the Lord."

"Victory over death and the grave!"

"Forever with the Lord."

vs. 18 “Comfort”

It’s only for those who are In Christ!

How do you get “In Christ?”

1. Realize your sin has separated you from God.
2. Repent, u-turn.
3. Receive Jesus as your Savior.