

1 Thessalonians: Encouraging Words

Job 19:25-27 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

“When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.”
(Edward Mote, 1834)

A Biblical View of Death and Heaven

“Sooner or later, you will face _____ as a loved one leaves this life. The question is not _____ you will grieve; the question is ____.”
 (“There Can Be Hope in Grief,” Alistar Begg)

Some of the Christians in Thessalonica had written Paul to ask what had happened to their relatives and friends who had _____ - since Jesus had not yet _____. *Where were they? How were they?*

Paul didn't want them to have an unhealthy _____ of death, as did the _____ around them, who believed death was the _____.
“Brothers, we do not want you to be _____ about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the _____ of men, who have no _____”
(1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Paul said Christians who die are _____ in Jesus.

Death for the _____ is referred to in the Bible as “sleep,” because both death and sleep are _____ and are followed by _____ up/_____. The _____ goes to sleep until the resurrection, and the _____ goes to be with the Lord in heaven.

The early Christians called where they buried their loved ones “_____ places.” From that Greek word for an _____ is derived the English word “_____.” In the same way that we don't lose hope when a loved one spends the night at a _____, we should not lose hope when a loved one is _____. (“I & II Thessalonians,” J. Vernon McGee, pp. 78-79)

So, where are those who have died “in _____”? Their bodies are _____ until the resurrection, and their souls are in _____. That's why Paul wrote: “_____ one another with these words” (v. 18).

A Biblical View of Jesus' Return

The year was 1560, and the _____ Parliament asked John _____ and five other Presbyterian ministers to write a Confession of Faith for the _____. They completed it in _____ days. I like how they described what will happen when Jesus comes _____:

“We do not doubt but that the selfsame _____ which was born of the virgin, was crucified, dead and buried, and which did rise again, did ascend into the heavens, where He has received all _____ in heaven and earth, and where He sits at the _____ hand of the Father. We believe that the _____ Lord Jesus shall _____ return for the Last Judgment as He was seen to ascend. And then, we firmly believe, the time of _____ and _____ of all things shall come.” (“The Scots Confession,” Chapter XI)

When Christ returns, “the Church will experience a _____ - being taken up in the air to _____ Christ as He comes. The elect will not be whisked away from the earth for a _____ until Christ returns for a _____ Second Coming. The purpose of the rapture is to allow all the saints to meet Christ _____ He comes.” (“Essential Truths of the Christian Faith,” R. C. Sproul, p. 275)

The Chronology

For Christians, death is “falling _____” in the Lord.

Our _____ immediately enter the presence of God.

At the appointed time, Jesus _____ to earth.

The dead in Christ rise _____ to meet Jesus.

Then Christians alive on earth are “_____ up” to meet Him.

All Christians will be with the Lord _____.

Hope for the Future

Christians believe in “the resurrection of the _____ and the life everlasting.” As Job said, “I know that my _____ lives, and after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my _____ I will see God.”

Of course Christians grieve, but with _____.

Christians anticipate “the time of _____ and _____ of all things” (“The Scots Confession”) after “Jesus _____ from heaven with a _____ command, with the voice of the _____ and with the _____ call of God” (v. 16).

