

In the second half of 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul addresses a very practical and understandable concern. As Christians wait for the Lord's return, what about those who have passed away? These words about the resurrection and Second Coming of Christ give us hope and encouragement that at the end, believers will always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians

4:13-18

Those who Have Fallen Asleep

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Hope is a critical component to the Christian experience. Throughout God's Word we see a constant reminder that no matter the circumstances we encounter, there is always hope in Christ. It's fundamental to our walk with the Lord, and the perspective eternity provides. However, even as Christ-followers who know this, we can still struggle and need reminders regarding our hope in Him.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT circumstances have you faced, causing you to struggle to find hope?

HOW were you (are you) able to find hope in the midst of life's most difficult struggles?

DESCRIBE how our eternal perspective can bring hope in the midst of painful trials.

WHAT truths does Scripture bring to finding hope in any circumstance we might face in life?

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OBSERVATION

What does Paul say he wants his readers to not be uninformed about in vs. 13?

According to vs. 14, what *do* we believe?

What does Paul declare in vs. 15, and by whom?

Describe the details Paul mentions in vs. 16-17 surrounding the event mentioned.

What is the *result* of the events Paul describes (see the end vs. 17)?

In vs. 18, what is Paul's conclusion to this section?

INTERPRETATION

What does vs. 13-14 reveal about grief and how the Lord wants us to experience it? What does it *NOT* reveal?

What does Christian grief look like?

Why is such emphasis placed upon the resurrection in this chapter? Consider Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:12-22.

Consider Revelation 21:1-5. What impact does knowing this outcome have on us today?

Why do you think Paul wanted to bring those in Thessalonica, and us today, to the conclusion given in vs. 18?

When you consider the end times, what feelings, emotions, questions arise?

APPLICATION

How does this passage encourage you? What is your primary take-away?