

The Greatest Day Yet To Come!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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READ: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. The second coming of Christ is mentioned in every chapter of 1 Thessalonians making it the dominant theme of the letter. There were some believers in Thessalonica that were misinformed, they feared that those who physically died before Christ's return would miss out on the resurrection. Why does Paul want the Thessalonian church to be informed about believers who have physically died?

2. What gospel truths does Paul share to encourage and give us hope? In what specific ways does Christ's resurrection provide us with a rock-solid confidence that cannot be shaken? (See 1 Cor. 15:12-23) What is the relationship between the resurrection of Christ and the second coming of Christ?

3. How is the grief of a Christian over the loss of a believing loved one different than the grief an unbeliever would experience? Consider some of the practical implications of this question by answering the following questions.
 - a) Where would you turn for comfort if you suddenly lost a loved one or found out you were terminally ill?

 - b) How would you counsel a friend who experienced the death of a close friend or family member who was a believer?

 - c) What would you say to a friend who lost someone who was not a follower of Christ? How is this different than your answer to question "b"?

4. What five statements about the return of Christ does Paul make in verses 15-17? Of these, which impacts you the most? Which surprises you the most?

5. How does knowing that Christ will return to take us to be with him, stir your heart to worship and adore him with increased urgency, passion, affection and expectation? (See Revelation 5:9-14)

6. In what ways does focusing on Christ's return help you to remain faithful to our mission, live in purity, pursue holiness and share our faith with urgency? What would you change in your life if you knew Christ was coming back tomorrow?

7. Why is it crucial for us to remind each other that Christ could return soon? What could you do to encourage others in your small group with the words of this passage? (see verse 18)

BREAKOUT

1. Refer back to 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, read this portion of Scripture in your breakout time and briefly discuss what is being said in this passage.

2. Looking to Christ's return should spur us on to pursue holiness! Based on the list below (taken from 1 Thess. 4:1-12), where are you struggling, failing or deliberately choosing to walk in sin?

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| - Sexual immorality (v.3) | - Disregarding God's word (v.8) | - Testimony to unbelievers (v.12) |
| - Self-control (v.4) | - Genuine love (v.9-10) | - Striving not to be financially dependent on others (v.12) |
| - Lust (v.5) | - Avoid gossip, meddling (v.11) | |
| - Impurity (v.7) | | |

3. Pray urgently for one another focusing on the fact that Christ's could return at any moment.

4. Check in during the week to hold each other accountable, encourage and pray for one another!