

## “Got Hope?”

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Listen:** *Got Hope?* Paul spent 3 weeks and probably didn't have a chance to tell them *everything* they would need to know. One area is how to experience grief in a hopeful way.

- We don't know when we will die but we all know someone that has died.
- Grief is dealt with in different ways in our culture and in the Scriptures.
- Do you fear death? Do you wonder whether you will see your loved ones again? Is death's separation permanent?

**Quick Look at Grief-** Biblically, Culturally and Philosophically.

1. I'm so glad Jesus wept. What if He did NOT weep? What if He ONLY had wept?
2. Acts 20:37-38- Grief is normal. We were created to be in relationship.
3. I Cor. 15:32- Philosophy of excess in the face of death.
4. Heb. 2:14-15- More than fearing the boogie man. Death is a major fear for many.
5. **ONLY IN THE BIBLE AND SPECIFICALLY IN *JESUS CHRIST* DO WE DISCOVER A HOPE THAT CAN OVERCOME ANY GRIEF.**

### *Got Hope?*

✚ **The Promise (4:13)** -- A \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Reunion with Jesus

Isaiah 25:6-9 thoughts:

✚ **The Basis (4:14)** -- Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ Resurrection

I Cor. 15:20 thoughts:

✚ **The Event (4:15-17)** -- The \_\_\_\_\_

Not meant to be a source of division but a major encouragement tool.

I Cor. 15:51-53 -- Interesting -- Corinthians and Thessalonians only give description not timing of Rapture.

✚ **The Result (4:18)** -- \_\_\_\_\_ based comfort!

Breathe courage into one another...so you can live like Reepicheep!

**Conclusion:** This encouraging hope is **ONLY** offered to those who put their trust in Jesus. (4:13- Brothers contrasted with the rest of men), (4:14- believe in Christ's death and resurrection, which is a simple belief) and (4:16- It is the dead in Christ not ALL who have died).

***Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die...DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"***  
**John 11:25-26**

# “Walking Papers”

*Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.*

**Idea:** And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

- **Today:** Encouragement is the oxygen of the soul. It is breathing courage into another. It doesn't matter who you are, we all need encouragement. Notice it says Encourage one another not just Be Encouraged. **PONDER THIS!**
- **Monday:** Do you think that there is any significance to the order in which the saints (dead first, then the living) are taken up into heaven (see 4:15-17)? What is the significance of this order? How does this serve to encourage Christians?
- **Tuesday:** Why is this topic especially important to the Thessalonians? What would seem to be the main questions Paul is seeking to answer, or issues he is seeking to deal with?
- **Wednesday:** Read I Corinthians 15:20-53 and meditate on the hope based message that Jesus is coming again. Notice how it mirrors I Thess. 4:13-18 as the basis of our hope and the characteristic of the event which we are hoping for.
- **Thursday:** Reflect on all the funerals that you have attended in the past. What makes a funeral a good funeral? Should the Pastor preach the gospel at a funeral?
- **Friday:** Our hope is in the Gospel. Sharing the gospel will most certainly offer another person encouragement. Is there someone with whom you can be making and taking opportunities to pass on the encouragement of life in Jesus?
- **Saturday:** Do you know when you are going to die? Yet you know you will. And you know others who have. How will you maintain passing on encouragement to others in the face of death?

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