

## Finding Comfort in the Resurrection: *Reuniting at the Rapture* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive [*and*] remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive [*and*] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

### TWO GOALS:

1. I don't want you to be IGNORANT concerning "the sleeping ones" (13)
2. I don't want you to be GRIEVING in the way "the other ones" do who have no hope. (13)

### THREE GROUPS:

1. Believers Who Are Alive
  - a. Brethren (13)
  - b. The ones that believe that Jesus died and rose again (13)
  - c. The living ones (15, 17)
  - d. The remaining ones (15,17)
  - e. One another (18)
2. Believers Who Have Died
  - a. The sleeping ones (13) who have believed that Jesus died and rose again
  - b. The fallen asleep ones (14,15)
  - c. The dead ones "in Christ" (16)

### 3. Unbelievers

- a. [The ones who do not believe that Jesus died and rose again]
- b. The other ones (13)
- c. The ones who have no hope (13)
  - i. Know Jesus, Know Hope
  - ii. No Jesus, No Hope

### THE PROMISES

- a. God will bring with Him those believers that have died.
- b. Those who believe that Jesus died and rose again that are living and remaining when the Lord comes will not be taken to heaven before those believers that have died .

### THE TIMELINE

- a. The Lord will descend from heaven
- b. The dead ones (the bodies of the believers that are with the Lord and who are brought "with Him") shall be raised
- c. The "living and remaining" believers and those that have been raised are taken away in a cloud
- d. Those taken away meet the Lord in the air
- e. The entire group of believers will be with the Lord always.

### ONE COMMAND

- a. What: Be comforting  
UBS Dictionary: *beg, urge; encourage; request, ask, appeal to; console, comfort, cheer up; invite, summon*
- b. To Whom: One another
- c. How: With these words
  - a. Jesus is our Hope
  - b. Separation is temporary between those who believe in Jesus
  - c. Believers that have died are with the Lord
  - d. We will be reunited
  - e. We will be with the Lord, together, always.