

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

¹³ 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.

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

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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

TWO 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. For believers (14), separation is temporary
 - c. Believers that have died are with the Lord
 - d. All believers will be reunited
 - e. All believers will be with the Lord, together, always.