

In the Meantime
Week 6 outline
11-9-25
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Best is Yet to Come

I. Anxiety, Death, and Our Hope (1 Thes 4:13)

- A. Do not be uninformed
 - 1. Phrase seen in three places
 - 2. Romans 11:25 - about Jews, Israel, and Gentiles
 - 3. 1 Cor 12 - about Spiritual Gifts
 - 4. 1 Thes 4 - the Rapture
- B. Dealing with Death
 - 1. Pagan view - bleak, grim, despair. simply the end
 - 2. Christian view - hope, assurance, a new body, and eternity with Jesus

II. Our Foundation (1 Thes 4:14)

- A. Jesus' Resurrection
 - 1. The Resurrection is the bedrock of our faith (**1 Cor 15:13-14**)
 - 2. Where HE goes, WE go!
 - 3. If He's not resurrected, then our faith is futile and our hope is dashed.
- B. Our Resurrection (**1 Thes 4:15**)
 - 1. Paul taught what he heard from Jesus
 - 2. The church was afraid their dead loved ones would miss eternity
 - 3. Paul assured them we will ALL be with Jesus

III. The Order of Things (1 Thes 4:16-17)

- A. Christ comes for His bride!
- B. LOTS of noise!
 - 1. Shout or loud command
 - 2. Trumpet blast!
 - 3. Who will hear it? All? Or like a dog whistle?
- C. The dead believers will rise first
 - 1. When we die, our souls go immediately to be with Jesus. (2 Cor 5:8, Luke 23:48)
 - 2. No "soul sleep" and no "purgatory"
 - 3. The FINISHED work of CHRIST IS ALL SUFFICIENT for us!
- D. Christians who are still alive on earth will rise next!
 - 1. We get our glorified bodies!
 - 2. **Our reunited bodies** are the **glorified bodies!**
 - a. Better than this one!
 - b. How will it be better? Hopefully look better! Vision of Grandpa?
 - c. Have super powers? Maybe!?!
 - Jesus walked through walls and appeared and disappeared?
 - I wanna fly!
 - But really... I dunno!
 - 3. This is known as the Rapture: "to seize, snatch, or carry off by force"

- Rapture from Greek word Harpazo
 - Harpazo translates into Latin Rapturo (Raptus)
 - Rapture happens before seven year tribulation
 - Day is unknown and can be anytime
 - One stays, one goes (Matt 24:36-41)
 - Happens in a moment! (1 Cor 15:52)
4. Everyone meets together with Christ in the air **(1 Cor 15: 50-57)**
- The Church is Formed
 - The Bride will come together and we'll sing!
 - ETERNITY BEGINS!!!
 - We are with the Lord forever!

IV. What Do We Do Now? (1 Thes 4:18)

- A. We comfort
- B. We encourage
- C. We live for eternity
- D. We live in obedience
- E. We live with courage

V. Of This We Are Certain:

- A. CHRIST WILL COME
- B. CHRIST WILL RULE
- C. CHRIST WILL BE GLORIFIED
- D. WE WILL BE WITH HIM FOREVER

LifeGroup Questions:

1. Think of a time that you lost someone you loved. How did your faith shape the way you grieved?
 2. How does the hope of "being with the Lord forever" bring comfort to/ impact your every day life?
 3. Imagine the picture that 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 paints of Christ's return. What emotions or images come to mind? What are you most excited about in heaven?!? Who are you most looking forward to talking to?
 4. Jesus could come back right...now! Does that change the way we live? If so how?
 5. How can we live a "best is yet to come" eternal perspective out in community? How can we "encourage one another" with these words (1 Thes 4:18) and remind each other to keep fighting the good fight and persevering through struggles.
- * Spend a few minutes praying for one another... especially for new levels of obedience and courage!