

# ANTICIPATE!

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST'S RETURN A STUDY THROUGH 1 THESSALONIANS

## #6 Until We Meet Again!

### I Thessalonians 4:13-18

ENCOURAGING PROMISES  
ABOUT OUR ETERNAL FUTURE

1Thessalonians 4:13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these words.

**RETURN ... RESURRECTION ... RAPTURE ... REUNION!**

The Question: What will happen to our believing loved ones who have passed away? Will they miss out on Jesus' return?

The Answer: The dead will not stay dead! They will be awakened from the grave and live again when He comes!

A. We don't have to be uninformed about the fate of believing loved ones who have **DIED**. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

B. Believers don't need to grieve their losses in the same way as those who have **NO HOPE** of any good beyond the grave. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

C. Because Jesus Himself died and then rose, He is able to **RAISE** our deceased loved ones too...and we should believe that!

1Thessalonians 4:14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

### THE "RAPTURE" OF BELIEVERS

1. The Personal Return of **JESUS** – **"The Lord HIMSELF will come down from heaven..."**
2. The **PRIORITY** Resurrection of Dead Believers – **"The dead in Christ will rise FIRST"**
3. The Puzzling **"RAPTURE"** of Living Saints – **"we who are still alive and are left will be CAUGHT UP ... in the clouds"**  
1Corinthians 15:51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
4. The Planned **REUNION** of All of God's Family – **"caught up TOGETHER WITH THEM in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"**
5. The Present **Relief** for Disheartened Believers – **"Therefore ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER with these words."**

**RETURN ... RESURRECTION ... RAPTURE ... REUNION!**

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