

Deeper Life Notes

Assurance of His Return, Part Two – Thessalonians 4:13-18

Pastor Dan Osborn, March 13, 2016

"Assurance of Christ's Return – Encouragement while we wait!"



Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

Consider

What is it that encourages you – puts courage into you? Be specific

What discourages you – takes courage from you? Be specific

Read

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (ESV) *And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 4: 15-18 The Message (MSG)

And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence—we have the Master's word on it—that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they'll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

Discuss

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

What is the main question of this text?

What is it that they are in the dark about?

What can we be certain of?

How might the certainty of Christ's return encourage us as believers? Be specific, what does the text say?

Sing/Listen

The King is Coming, Left Behind (the rapture song) - YouTube

Study

What characterizes the return of Christ?

What does God call believers to do?

Acts 17:1-9, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 5:1-11, Matthew 24-25, Philippians 3:20-21, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Pray

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13, 5:23-24

Next Steps

- Be ready (Matthew 24:44, 1 John 3:3)
- Be working for souls & rewards (John 9:4, Matthew 24:45-46, 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Be watching (1 Thessalonians 5:6, 2 Timothy 4:8)

Zoom in : 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

ONE

Engage God's truth—**Watch**, verses 13-15

The certainty of Christ's return encourages us by clarifying relevant truths

- The truth about **ignorance**
- The truth about **fellowship**
- The truth about **loss/death**
- The truth about **distinction**
- The truth about the **Gospel**
It is through Jesus that dead believers are made alive and reunited with other believers
- The truth about **resurrection** and **rapture**

Christ is coming! (4 specific details)

Believers who have died will rise first to meet the Lord in the air (1)

Believers who are alive (left) when the Lord returns will be "*caught up*", raptured after the dead in Christ (2 & 3)

The church past and present will be together with the Lord forever (4)

TWO

Embrace Biblical Hope—**Worship**, verses 13, 17

The certainty of Christ's return encourages us by calling us to biblical hope

Biblical hope means grieving with assurance because you KNOW HOPE.

Where do you stand? HOPE SO, NO HOPE, OR KNOW HOPE?

Assurance: Biblical hope means expecting a family reunion/future.

THREE

Export encouragement! – put courage into others, verse 18

The certainty of Christ's return encourages us by commissioning us as encouragers—**Witness**

Commissioned to encourage the family of God:

- Give permission to *grieve*
- Remind one another of the *truths* of God's Word
- Anticipate the *return of Christ*
- Record those you look forward to *seeing again*
- Let the last word be *God's Word*

Commissioned to encourage the lost:

"Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy." 1 Peter 3:15

Bottom Line = We can know that we know that we know Christ is coming again. His certain return encourages us by clarifying important truths, calling us to biblical hope and by commissioning us to be encouragers!

*Will you, will I, listen and engage with His truth?
Will you, will I, embrace biblical hope?
Will you, will I, export encouragement?*

Watch
Worship
Witness