

“Hope for the Future” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Take-Home Truth: We find comfort in a believer’s death when we place confidence in a believer’s future.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (English Standard Version)

- **WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES, IT’S IMPORTANT TO GRIEVE.** (4:13)

Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.
Acts 8:2 (New International Version)

The Grief Process

- Shock
- Period of sorrow and loneliness
- Closure

“Saul and Jonathan— in life they were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. . . . ²⁴O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, . . . ²⁵How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. ²⁶I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me.” . . . 2 Samuel 1:23-26 (NIV)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15 (ESV)

“Hope” = Greek = *elpis* = “confident expectation”

- **CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE DIED ARE WITH JESUS.** (4:14)

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁸We . . . would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6, 8 (NIV)

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.
Philippians 1:23-24 (NIV)

See Luke 23:43; Ecclesiastes 12:7.

. . . remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, . . . without hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12 (NIV)

- **A BELIEVER’S DESTINY IS RESURRECTION LIFE.** (4:15-17)

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
Colossians 3:4 (ESV)

See 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:18-23; Ephesians 1:15-23; 2 Peter 3:13.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body . . . ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” . . . Revelation 21:1-5a (NIV)

Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire . . . God . . . will set the heavens on fire and the elements will melt away in the flames. 2 Peter 3:10b, 12b (New Living Translation)

Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (ESV)