



Paul teaches the saints at Thessalonica that their “born-again” loved ones who have died will not miss the rapture of the church. All true believers in Christ, whether dead or alive, can be comforted in knowing that one day Christ will come to gather them to be with Him forever.

Outline

- Preview Introduction
- Reunion Of The Saints 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
- Coming Of The Lord 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16
- Caught Up Together 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18



Truths & Principles

- ✓ Those who died as believers will not miss the return of Christ.
- ✓ Believers who have died will receive the same glorified bodies at His return as those who are still alive.
- ✓ The Rapture of “true” believers should bring hope and comfort not despair and confusion.
- ✓ Jesus is coming soon for His saints.

Applications

- ✓ We need to encourage bereaved people with the facts of the future resurrection.
- ✓ Be comforted knowing that Christ is coming soon.
- ✓ Live your life with the expectancy of His soon return.
- ✓ Set the priorities of your life in light of the fact that Jesus is coming back soon.
- ✓ We need to occupy until He returns.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. Paul does not want what for the brethren (4:13)? _____
2. Who are those who have fallen asleep (4:13)? _____
3. What will happen to those who have no hope (4:13)? _____
4. What is it that Paul says we believe (4:14)? _____
5. Who will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus (4:14)? _____
6. Who will not precede those who are asleep (4:15)? _____
7. Who will descend from heaven (4:16)? _____
8. What are the three things that accompany the descent (4:16)? _____
9. What happens to those believers who are alive and remain (4:17)? _____
10. How long will we (believers) be with the Lord (4:17)? _____
11. What should be the believer's response to the Rapture (4:18)? _____

Study Questions

1. Consider Paul's description of the reunion of the saints – VERSES 13-14.
 - ❖ What does the Bible say about death? What euphemism is used and why?
 - ❖ What was the major concern of the Thessalonian believers in these verses?
 - ❖ How would this bring comfort and hope to the Thessalonian believers?
 - ❖ Describe the hope and comfort these verses bring to you.
2. Reflect on Paul's depiction of the RAPTURE in VERSES 15-18.
 - ❖ What are the precise events presented?
 - ❖ Sketch out the sequence of events of the RAPTURE or "*snatching away of the Church*". Be sure to include what happens to believers dead and alive, the Lord's descent, what accompanies the descent, and what happens after the Lord's descent.
 - ❖ What treasured truths can you unearth in the sequencing of the RAPTURE events?
3. Ponder VERSES 15-18 in light of Paul's command to comfort one another with these words.
 - ❖ The RAPTURE is more than just a theological theory – it is a message of comforting hope. A hope for the old and the weary – a hope for the newly begun!
 - ❖ Pray and let the Holy Spirit bring you comfort and hope in knowing Jesus is coming back soon for His saints. Praise Jesus for who He is, and for what He has done!
 - ❖ Jesus told us we are to "*occupy until He comes*". How will you "*occupy until He comes*"? How does this relate to "*SANCTIFICATION*" – *separated for service to God*?
 - ❖ Pray and let the Holy Spirit highlight the areas of your life that need to change and to set the proper priorities for what you think, say and do.