

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*“Ignorance, Death, Sorrow & Hope”*

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-14a*

*JUNE 15 – JUNE 21, 2008*

**THE LORD'S DAY** –We are about to begin a section of Paul’s Epistle to the Thessalonians where The Apostle deals with future events; namely, the matter of the return of Jesus Christ. This area of study falls into the category of Theology which we call “eschatology” or “the doctrine (teaching) of last things”. This is a topic which has through the years produced many different interpretations and much speculation. It is not my desire to try to force “my opinion” on us but rather to look at Holy Scripture and be diligent to study and see what God has revealed to us concerning these things. I pray we will lay aside our pre-suppositions and come to the text in weeks to come with open and teachable hearts to learn and be encouraged concerning the “Blessed Hope” that Jesus will return to “*punish with everlasting destruction those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*” and “*to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe*”. Read **2 Thessalonians 1:1-10**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –We begin our study this week by looking at our text found in **verses 13-14 of 1 Thessalonians 4**. The Apostle Paul here starts his teaching of the return of Christ by addressing the matter of those who have “*fallen asleep*” (died). He begins to provide comfort through The Word of God concerning the hope which belongs to those who are in Christ. There have been many assumptions as to what particular question he is answering here in the text but it is without doubt that he is speaking to the matter of what happens to those who have already died and whose bodies are in the grave when Christ returns. He begins this discourse by providing comfort concerning the relationship of deceased believers and the second coming of Christ. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Pray that God would help you to hear Him speak through His Word, and to teach you by His Word and Spirit, and to have the hope and comfort which He gives through the promise of resurrection.*

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

**TUESDAY** –The text starts out by saying, “*But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren...*” The word here translated “ignorant” in the Greek means “to be ignorant, not to know, not to understand, to err or sin, to be wrong”. As I mentioned before we sometimes find ourselves *ignorant* to the teaching of God through His Word. However, we see that God’s desire is for us NOT to be so. The reason we are ignorant and that we have so many differing opinions concerning many things in Scripture is that we, even as believers in Jesus live in a body and mind that are still tainted in measure with sin and its affects. We have been given the mind of Christ and His Spirit to enable us to see and understand but until that day when we see Jesus and are glorified we will to some degree be limited in our understanding. This is not to say we shouldn’t be diligent and prayerful, asking God for His wisdom as we study the Scripture neither am I saying that we can’t know what God has clearly revealed to us. The people to whom Paul wrote were obviously ignorant of some important things which by God’s grace we have spelled out for us in the pages of Holy Scripture. Read **1 Corinthians 2:16, 1 John 2:26-3:3**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Pray that God will help you be diligent in prayer and study as we walk in truth, waiting for Jesus’ return. Ask Him to keep you from being arrogant as we now “see through a glass darkly, but then face to face.”*

**WEDNESDAY** –We read that their ignorance was “*concerning those who have fallen asleep...*” This is an obvious metaphor for death. We understand from Scripture that this involves the body and not the soul which never dies. A very important point to remember when studying the doctrine of last things is to understand that God has said He will bring life to these mortal bodies. God, in His marvelous plan has seen fit to raise up our real, actual bodies and to fit all men bodily for eternity. This past week I conducted a funeral service and I am always reminded when looking at a corpse that one day God will raise up these lifeless bodies again. Scripture has made clear that it is appointed (fixed) unto man once to die physically. The horror is the thought that those who have not been born again will experience what the Scripture calls “*the second death*” which is explained as being cast into the lake of fire where “*the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.*” Read **Genesis 3:19, Daniel 12:2-3, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Revelation 14:11, 20:11-15**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, thank You that one day You will call out of the graves all men and that we as believers will be with You forever in our new glorious bodies.*

**THURSDAY** –Paul now speaks to the fact that some people (the regenerate, true believers) need not sorrow as “*others who have no hope*”. Even though we

may die and our physical bodies for now return to the dust of the earth, we still have “*hope*”. As I have told you many times, the word “*hope*” in Scripture does not mean what so many think of when they say, “I hope it does not rain today” or similar things. The Greek word *elpis* comes from a word that means “to anticipate, usually with pleasure” and it speaks of a “confident expectation of eternal salvation” for the believer in Jesus. Paul is saying to those who trust in Jesus for salvation that they have a sure, confident “*hope*” of certain resurrection, deliverance, and salvation for eternity. Read **1 Corinthians 15:12-28, 35-58**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Thank You Father for a confident & certain hope.*

**FRIDAY** –Our hope is not without grounds. In **verse 14** Paul tells of the person and message of hope when he says, “*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again...*” As John MacArthur says in commentary of this text, “**If** does not suggest uncertainty or doubt, but rather logical sequence. Paul says, ‘since’ or ‘based on the fact that’ we believe that Jesus died certain things logically follow.” Our hope is based on the person and work of Jesus Christ explained in the gospel. Jesus Christ became the substitute for those who believe, taking on Himself the wrath of God for the sin of His people. He has satisfied the demands of God’s holiness, righteousness, and justice for sin on behalf of those who by repentant faith have trusted in Christ’s work alone as their only hope of salvation. Notice, Paul does not use the metaphor “*sleep*” when speaking of Christ but rather says He, “*died*” (2 different Greek words). Jesus faced a death on the cross that transforms the physical death of those who believe in Him into “*sleep in Jesus*”. Because of the work of our Savior, we in Christ are consciously in His presence when we die physically and we await the resurrection of the body. Read **John 14:19, Hebrews 2:9, 1 Peter 2:24**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Jesus, thank You for “tasting death” for me as a true child of Yours.*

**SATURDAY** –The promise of hope is given to us in the last phrase where we are told, “*...even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*” Lord willing, we will cover this in more detail later on. Read **John 14:1-4**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *God, help me to live in such away that as Jesus taught, I will not be ashamed at His coming, but rather be found watching.*