

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

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The Hope of Those Who Sleep in Jesus”

1 Thessalonians 4:14b-15

JUNE 22 – JUNE 28, 2008

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL 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

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we continue on in **1 Thessalonians 4** by looking at **verses 14b-15**. Our study last time focused on the “*ignorance*” of the Thessalonians concerning those who had “*fallen asleep*” in Jesus. We addressed the fact that those in Christ have a hope that the lost and unregenerate world does not. This week we will elaborate on “*The Hope of Those Who Sleep in Jesus*”. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-15**.

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 – The “promise” (*will bring with Him*) and the “person” (*Jesus*) of the hope that we mentioned last week is given to us again in the last phrase of **verse 14** where we are told, “...*even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*” John MacArthur comments, “Some interpret the phrase *God will bring* to mean that the spirits of dead believers will come from heaven with Christ to meet their resurrected bodies. Others see in it the truth that at the Rapture, God will bring all believers, living and dead, back to heaven with Christ. While the first view is certainly true, the second one seems to be the emphasis of this passage.” I list this quote to illustrate the many different interpretations that surround these verses which I eluded to last week. The word John uses here “Rapture” is taken from **verse 15** where it is translated “*coming*”. In the Greek, the word is “Parousia” which literally means “presence, coming, arrival, and advent”. The Apostle Paul uses the same word in **chapter 3; verse 13** where he describes the “*coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.*” I also believe both of these views to be true but would probably be counted in the group which sees the first interpretation to be in primary view here as the text clearly says that when Christ returns he will “*bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*” (Bring where? –in the larger context he is speaking of Christ returning TO earth) We will study this point further Lord willing in the future but suffice to say now, regardless, this is truly hope for those in Christ. Read **1 Thessalonians 3:13, Jude 14**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You God that You will never forsake Your own and that those of us who will die as believers, have a true hope.

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

TUESDAY –Regardless of where you believe Christ is “*bringing*” these saints it is without doubt that they are with Jesus. This is the basis for a true and steadfast hope. Albert Barnes, who sees the text differently than I do hits the nail on the head and keeps the important point of our union with Christ as believers even in death in primary focus. He comments: “*Will God bring with him. This does not mean that God will bring them with him from heaven when the Savior comes--though it will be true that their spirits will descend with the Savior; but it means that he will bring them from their graves, and will conduct them with him to glory, to be with him. The declaration, as it seems to me, is designed to teach the general truth, that the redeemed are so united with Christ, that they shall share the same destiny as he does. As the head was raised, so will all the members be. As God brought Christ from the grave, so will he bring them; that is, his resurrection made it certain that they would rise.*” It is a great and universal truth that God will bring all from their graves who “sleep in Jesus;” or that they shall all rise. The apostle does not, therefore, refer so much to the *time* when this would occur--meaning that it would happen when the Lord Jesus should return--as to the *fact* that there was an established connection between him and his people, which made it certain that if they died united with him by faith, they would be as certainly brought from the grave as he was.” (Underline mine) Read **John 14:19, 1 Corinthians 15:12-23**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for Jesus’ Word from John 14:19.*

WEDNESDAY –Paul begins **verse 15** with a confirmation of what he has just said and is continuing to say when he declares, “*For this we say to you by the word of the Lord...*” There is varying opinions as to what the Apostle had in view here as well. Some see it exclusively as some direct revelation from Jesus Himself while others see it as describing the sum and totality of what Jesus said concerning His coming as recorded in Scripture. Again, regardless of these two differing thoughts we can be sure that this information is from Jesus Christ Himself and is therefore truth. Some who argue for this to be an extra revelation apart from the Scripture do so because they see “no close parallels to the present passage in any of the gospels”. I believe that a reading of some of Christ’s recorded words in the gospels do show similarities and in fact, speak to this same event; the single phase second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that as we study these topics we won’t get critical or unloving with brothers and sisters who disagree with us. One main thing to remember as we study is that even any direct revelation given exclusively to Paul or any of the Apostles which is not recorded in Scripture would NOT contradict what IS recorded in Holy Scripture, given by inspiration from The Holy Spirit. Read **Matthew 24:29-31, John 6:39-40**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You that we can be sure what You teach us in Holy Scripture is true and will come to pass.*

THURSDAY –Paul now speaks to some practical issues concerning the facts surrounding the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the translation of those who will be alive at Christ’s coming. He speaks to the order or sequence of the resurrection. He says that there will be two groups of people namely the living and the dead who will be involved in the resurrection. He makes it quite clear that the living believers will not “*precede*” (to come before) those who are “*asleep in Jesus*”. I do not want to get ahead of ourselves in the text as Lord willing we will begin to see the Apostle explain in detail the coming of our Lord in the verses to come. We find Paul using the personal pronoun “*we*” when referring to those who “*are alive and remain*”. This should be taken to say that Paul had the proper view and anticipation of Christ’s return. He did not set dates nor should we but what we should do is follow Christ’s clear teaching and be prepared for the return of The Son of Man. Read **Matthew 24:45-51, 25:13**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to live both anticipating and prepared for the return of Jesus.*

FRIDAY –We left off yesterday referring to the order of the resurrection when Christ returns. I know our space is limited and I can not treat this subject in detail here in the next two days. As our title says, the “*hope*” of those who sleep in Jesus is the promise that when He returns He will resurrect them from the graves and or translate the living and in that moment we will “*all be changed*”. As I mentioned in our sermon to begin these particular studies, I do not believe that Scripture teaches a two stage return of Christ or a “secret” rapture. I believe the return of Jesus will be anything but a “secret”, that it will be a day of decisive finality as Christ alone is exalted (**Isaiah 2:11**), men will be judged, and the church will be present. Paul himself speaks to the fact that when Christ returns the wicked will be punished and receive retribution while at the very same time the saved of the church will be given rest. He sums that passage up by giving us the timing of the event: “*...when He comes, in that Day...*” We will cover these things as the Lord wills in future lessons. Today, read this passage which speaks of the Lord’s return on “*the last day*”, or “The Day of The Lord”. Read **2 Thessalonians 1:3-10**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, thank You that You are coming again!*

SATURDAY –Today, read our Lord’s Words concerning the last day and resurrection. Read **John 6:39, 40, 44, 54, 11:24, 12:48**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for the sure hope of resurrection!*