

8/2/20

Recap of last week's message (7/26/20 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18):

1. "Among the many doctrines that Paul taught the Thessalonians in his short time with them was the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. So real to them was this doctrine that they looked daily for His return, and when fellow believers began to die—they were concerned. Had those who died missed out on Christ's coming for His church? That is the issue in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Paul comforts them with his teaching of the rapture and resurrection.

2. He taught them, and through them, us, that they need not fear life and all the trials (even persecution) it can bring and they need not fear death.

-“Despite all the personal fitness trainers,...surgeries, expensive wrinkle creams and everything else people use to look young and keep fit, the mortality rate still stands at 100 percent! Someone once remarked that our generation will produce the best looking corpses in history. Of course, Christians aren't immune from the desire to live longer and look better in the process. And while there's nothing wrong with caring for our bodies, Paul reminds us that death is nothing to fear.” (New Men's Devotional Bible).

3. Paul speaks of those who have “fallen asleep,” a euphemism for believers who have died. When a believer dies, their body is laid into the ground, but their spirit or soul (the immaterial part of them) goes immediately into the presence of the Lord (Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:5-8).

-“Death was not the end, but simply a ‘departure (Php q:23; 2 Th4:6-8; 2 Pe 1:13-15) in which we leave our physical bodies...and immediately enter into God's presence.” (McGrath)

4. Paul gives the order of events at His coming in the Rapture this way: First Jesus comes in the air, then church age believers (those who are “in Christ”) in the grave will rise first, followed by living believers who will be “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air and instantaneously transformed into their glorified bodies to be reunited with the believers who had died and been resurrected. This was to be a source of comfort for the believers at Thessalonica.

5. “Paul gives the Thessalonians instructions regarding the dead in Christ in order to show them that those who had died in the Lord (Church Age Saints) would not miss out on any of the blessings of those who were alive at the rapture-4:13-18.” (Jerry Hullinger)