

Introduction and Review

- we ought to be a people who focus less on making p_____ about what is going to happen and be a people who spend more time a_____ these truths of the gospel

Exhortations in 1 Thessalonians 4-5

1) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 – Paul exhorted Christians to w_____ and p_____ the Lord

2) 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 Paul exhorted the church on sexual _____

3) 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 Paul exhorts this congregation to continue in brotherly _____ and to be _____ with their hands

- in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 Paul addresses topic of the c_____ of the Lord Jesus

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

1 Thessalonians 3:13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Outline:

- 1) (4:13) Grieving – NOT!**
- 2) (4:14-17) Gospel Hope**
- 3) (4:18) Good Encouragement**

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

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For 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. ¹⁶ For 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. ¹⁷ Then 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. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1) (4:13) Grieving – NOT!

(4:13) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers,

- he says several times in 1 Thessalonians “we know”

1 Thessalonians 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,

1 Thessalonians 4:2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- Paul wants them here to KNOW about the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus

1 Thessalonians 4:11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,

- in this section, here again that Paul calls them “brothers”

- Paul here is again affirming that they are a part of the family of God, that they been crucified and loved by Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ died for their sins, that they have been brought from death to life

Galatians 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

about those who are asleep,

- Greek word means: getting some rest, or to lie down, or to sleep, or to be dead

- this same word is used with Moses as he lies down, dies and goes to his fathers

Deuteronomy 31:16 And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and worship after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them.

- this word is used to speak of Lazarus before Jesus heals him because he is dead

John 11:11-13 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.

- Paul says clearly that after the death of our body there is hope of life after death; that our spirit will be in the presence of the Lord

Philippians 1:23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

(See also 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 and Luke 23:43)

- Thessalonians 4:16 “the dead in Christ shall rise first”

that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

- but there is great hope found in Jesus – meaning “in Christ you will have joyful expectation of eternal life with the Lord Jesus”

Ephesians 2:12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

2) (4:14-17) Gospel Hope

(4:14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

- here Paul lays out what is at the center of his belief

i) The death of Jesus speaks to the atoning work of the Lord Jesus

- Jesus’ work on the cross is what we call penal substitution

- meaning that Jesus takes the punishment in our place or as our substitute

- Jesus gives to his people who trust in His work – righteousness – they stand righteous and holy before the Lord

ii) The resurrection of Jesus reveals to us that God is able to defeat death

- the resurrection speaks to the Lord being the God of the living and not of the dead

- the resurrection reveals that God the Father is sovereign over death

even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

- the hope for Christians is that we will be taken with Christ by God

- the hope for the Christian is that there is eternal life and eternal joy with Jesus

- the hope for the Christian is that there is a promise for eternity

- the book of Revelation talks as well about the hope we have

Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

(4:15) For 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.

- Paul is going to declare to us a word from the Lord; this word is not Paul's o_____

- those who have "fallen asleep" or have died, they will proceed to the Lord before those that are still alive!

- Jesus will come in the same manner that He went into heaven

Acts 1:9-11 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

- the resurrection of believers, the judgment of God and the creation of the new heavens and the new earth really happens at this event!

- here we do not see Paul talking about a secret rapture or two raptures, there is just one event!

(4:16) For 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.

- the Lord will descend upon the earth

- the Lord Jesus will bodily be upon the earth

- this 2nd coming of Jesus on the face of the earth will be loud and obvious

i) cry of a command

ii) a voice of the archangel

iii) with the sounds of the trumpet of God

- a very v_____ and l_____ event at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

- concerned that those who had died would have no participation in the great day of the return of Christ

- Paul assures them these those who are dead in Christ will be raised f_____!

(4:17) Then 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.

- Paul talks about this expectation in 2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- the joy of heaven is that we will be with _____

- if there is no Jesus in heaven it is _____ a place to look forward to
- if Jesus is not in heaven, would you want to go there? _____
- Praise the Lord and thank the Lord, we will be with our Lord and Savior for eternity!

3) (4:18) Good Encouragement

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- “therefore” points us back to what Paul has already said
- e_____ one another with the blessings and the benefits of knowing Christ

Application

1) The Hope of Christ

- Jesus Christ died to deal with our sin
- Jesus Christ took upon our sin so that we might have forgiven sin and forgotten sin
- the salvation found in Jesus gives us eternal hope and joy
- the world offers us nothing eternally satisfying
- the book of Ecclesiastes teaches that there is nothing s_____ - only the Lord satisfies!
- Won't you see the glory of the Lord and trust His wonderful work and experience the hope of eternal life?

2) Let us Encourage

- Paul calls us to encourage
- God commands us to build people up by reminding them of the hope of the r_____!

- at the end of this section on the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus , Paul says this again:
1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- today use your language to glorify God and build people up in the Lord
- let us be this kind of example and person to each other in the church!

Prepare for next Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5