

Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent Hope, Part 1

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a comfort based on the soon resurrection of the Saints.

Sermon Proposition: There are 2 truths related to the rapture, that provide comfort for us.

Introduction: Paul responds to the second question of the Thessalonians. "What will happen to" the dead in Christ? Some members of the church had died, an event that caused sorrow for them.

I. The focus of the rapture. V.13, 18

A. The focus is to prevent ignorance among the brethren. V.13a

B. The focus is to pacify grief among the brethren. V.13b

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

John 11:11-12 These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." **12** Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well."

2 Peter 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **60** Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

C. The focus is to provide comfort among the brethren. V.18

John 14:1-4 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. **4** "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." **55** "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" **56** The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. **57** But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

II. The foundations of the rapture. V.14

A. The death of Christ is a foundation of the rapture. V.14a

John 1:29-30 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

Hebrews 9:12-15 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. **13** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **14** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **15** And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 10:8-14 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the law), **9** then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. **10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. **11** And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, **13** from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. **14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.

B. The resurrection of Christ is a foundation of the rapture. V.14b

Jesus resurrection revealed what the resurrection will be like for those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We as believers can partially understand the nature of our bodily resurrection by reading about Jesus resurrection. (**Luke 24:36-43**)

1 Corinthians 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

1 Corinthians 6:14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

2 Corinthians 4:14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you.

C. The revelation of Christ is a foundation of the rapture. V.15a

Their statements are confirmed by the Word of the Lord, which gives these statements an authoritative tone, a revelation from the Lord Himself.

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--

This indicates the fact that it was a mystery, it was not a subject Jesus directly addressed Himself. Paul's teaching on the subject is new information to the church.