

# ARE WE READY?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

1 Corinthians 15:50-58



22 November 2020

**Are We Living (Walking) As Christians?** (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

**Comfort One Another with Words** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

• (v. 18) **Words of Comfort**

- In order for these words to be of comfort we must understand them!
- How to comfort those who have lost loved ones (who are “in Christ”) or are close to death themselves? **With the Word of God.** (v. 15)
- The Word of God was given to us for our learning, encouragement, strengthening, and comfort. (Romans 15:4-5)
- Only those who BELIEVE that Jesus DIED and ROSE again can be and will be comforted by these words! (See v. 14)
- If Christ did not rise from the dead then our faith is all in vain. (1 Cor. 15:14)

• (vv. 13-15) Those who are “asleep” **in Christ.**

★ Christians do not fear death! Death is likened to “sleep”. (John 11:11, 25-26; **2 Samuel 7:12**)

- ① There is nothing to fear in sleep. It is absolutely harmless.
  - Psalm 23:4 – there is nothing to fear in the valley of death.
  - Christ has taken the “sting” out of death. (1 Cor 15:56-57)
- ② Sleep is welcomed at the end of a hard day of work.
  - Solomon states, “The sleep of a working man is sweet.” (Eccl. 5:12; Psalm 127:2; Proverbs 3:24; Jeremiah 31:25)
  - Death, like sleep, is sweet to those who are in Christ.
- ③ We lie down to sleep expecting rise again.
  - Old and New Testaments promise resurrection! (Daniel 12:2; Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:10; Ezekl 37:1-4, 12; Hos 13:14; Matt 22:29-32; John 5:28-29; 11:23-26; 1 Cor 15:20-22, 51-54)
- ④ Sleep is a time of rest.
  - Revelation 14:13 — Death is when we REST from all our labors here on earth.
- ⑤ Sleep frees us from the sorrows of life.
  - As we sleep we “forget” the troubles of the day.
  - Death is the doorway into a realm of no more tears, no more pain, no more trouble! (Rev 21:4; Isaiah 35:10; 65:18-19)

- ⑥ One is relatively awoken easily from sleep.
  - This is a picture of the ease that it will be for God to raise us from the dead!
  - Jesus Christ raised Lazarus with the simple words: “Lazarus, come forth!” (John 11:43)
  - God will raise us simply by His voice! (See John 5:28-29)
- ⑦ Sleep allows the body to be renewed for future duties.
  - Through death we take off the corruptible and put on the incorruptible.
  - Through death we are “renewed” for heavenly duties. (Rev. 22:3)
- ⑧ As we sleep we are “changed!”
  - We go to bed tired and worn out. We awaken renewed and refreshed!
  - We know that we all (all those “in Christ”) will be changed!
    - “in a twinkling of an eye” – 1 Corinthians 15:50-53
    - We will be like Him. (1 John 3:2; Psalm 17:15; Philip 3:21)

**The LORD, a Shout, and a Trumpet** (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

- “the Lord Himself will descend” – He comes again to FULFILL a promise.
  - Read John 14:1-6
  - He comes for His own!! – NOT ALL.
  - He is coming for those who are eagerly waiting. (Hebrew 9:28; Philippians 3:20-21; Luke 12:37)
  - Unbelievers will not be raised from the dead until AFTER His 1000 year reign at the White Throne judgment. (Revelation 20:11-15)
- He comes with a SHOUT! κέλευσμα keleusma {kel'-yoos-mah}
  - definition: an order; a command; a stimulating command!
  - Consider John 11:43 and John 5:28.
- “with the voice of an (not “the”) archangel”
- “with the trumpet of God” – trumpets were used to GATHER people together for movement! (Matt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; Isaiah 27:13; Numbers 10:1-1)

**There Is A Resurrection!**

- The dead in Christ will rise and those who are alive will “rise” to meet Christ in the air!
- Christ taught that there will be TWO resurrection: (John 5:25-29)
  - **A Resurrection to LIFE** – eternal life.
    - This resurrection is promised to those who have experienced the powerful work of God’s grace on their lives recreating them into **new** creatures. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
    - This **conversion** is evident by their “patient continuance in doing good . . . who works what is good.” (John 5:29; Romans 2:7, 10)
    - As children of God they live their lives practicing righteousness - righteousness defined by God. (1 John 2:29; 3:7, 9-10; Romans 10:3)

- This resurrection is to a life lived forever in a mansion and city prepared for us by God. (John 14:1-4; Hebrews 11:16; 13:14)
  - This resurrection is to a life lived with NO more tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain **or SIN**. (Revelation 21:4; 22:3)
  - Believers in the past embraced these promises and confessed that they were only strangers and pilgrims on the earth. They **longed** for their homeland! (Hebrews 11:13-14)
  - Believers know that the things we see are only temporal and will pass away, but the things which are not seen are eternal! (2 Corinthians 4:18; 1 John 2:15-17) Christians live by faith; not by sight.
- ② **A Resurrection of Condemnation** – eternal punishment; wrath; indignation.
- This resurrection is promised to those who do not know God and who **disobey** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
  - These people live to “**establish their own righteousness**” being ignorant of “God’s righteousness”. (Romans 10:2-3)
  - These practice and do evil, are self-seeking, and do not obey the truth. (John 5:29; Romans 2:8-9)

### Since There Is a Resurrection, Therefore . . . (1 Corinthians 15:34)

- ① “Wake up (sober up) to **righteousness**!
- ② “Do not sin.” Pursue holiness! (Hebrews 12:14; 1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
- ③ KNOW GOD!

### Our Glorified Bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

- ① Our natural body will be buried in **corruption** but it will be raised in **incorruption**.
  - ★ Our natural bodies are bodies that **are** perishing!
  - ★ “All flesh is grass . . . the grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.” (Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24; Psalm 102:11; 103:15-16)
  - ★ “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” (James 4:14; Job 7:6-7; 9:25-26; 14:1-2; Psalm 39:5; 90:5-7; Isaiah 38:12; 1 John 2:17)
  - ☆ **BUT** when we are resurrected there will be no more pain, no more decay, no more death!
- ② Our natural body will be buried in **dishonor**, but it will be raised in **glory** and **honor**.
  - ★ Because of sin we **all** fall short in pleasing God and being what we **ought** to be in this world. (ought – Colossians 1:10)
  - ★ We **all** fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:8-10)
  - ★ We dishonor God by not using our bodies and its members as “instruments of righteousness to God”. (Romans 6:13)

☆ **BUT** when we are resurrected we will be resurrected with bodies that **cannot** sin! All that we do will be to bring glory to our Creator! **See John 17:22**

- ③ Our natural body will be buried in **weakness**, but it will be raised in **power**.
  - ★ We are **weak** physically and spiritually because of sin.
  - ★ Our natural bodies are likened to “**tents**” and our resurrected bodies to “**buildings**”. (2 Corinthians 5:1, 4; 2 Peter 1:13-14)
  - ☆ **BUT** when we are resurrected we will no longer say, “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)
  - ☆ Our resurrected bodies will be suited for any task in heaven.
- ④ Our natural body will be buried as a **natural** one, but it will be raised a **spiritual** one.
  - ☆ Our resurrected bodies will be “**like**” the angels . . . Luke 20:34-36)
  - ☆ They will be suited for heaven.
- ⑤ In our natural body we bear the image of the first man, Adam, but we will be raised in the image of the second man, Christ!
  - (Romans 8:29) God **predestined** that ALL those whom He chose to be His people will be conformed into the image of His Son. The transformation begins at **new birth** and will be completed at the **resurrection**.
  - (1 John 3:2) We will be **like** Him – the second Adam!

### Are We Ready?

- Are we READY to die? (Philippians 1:18-24) “I am hard-press . . .” (vv. 21-23)
- (Hebrews 9:28) We are to be “**eagerly waiting**” for His return.
- (Romans 8:23) Christians **groan** for our new bodies!
- (1 John 3:2-3) Since we have the promise of the resurrection we are to **purify ourselves** as He is pure! (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- (1 Corinthians 15:34) **WE** need to **sober up** and **get serious** with God.
- (1 Corinthians 15:58) **THEREFORE . . .**
  - ★ BE STEADFAST
  - ☆ BE IMMOVABLE
  - ★ BE ALWAYS ABOUNDING in the WORK of the LORD.
- (James 1:22) Be DOERS of the WORD, not just hearers!