

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Waking Up to The Future: Part 1

And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.
-Mark 13:7-8 ESV

1.Hope! 13-16

remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
-1 Thessalonians 1:3 ESV

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
-1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV

- A. Not Uninformed
In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. -John 14:2-3 ESV
- B. Hope in the face of death 13
- C. Confession of Belief- 14
And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. -Matthew 24:14 ESV
- D. The Dead in Christ 15, 16
Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. -Revelation 20:6 ESV

“Born once you die twice. Born twice you die once”

2. The Rapture: Living Christians are taken Away 17

- A. Suddenly Taken Up
and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. -Matthew 24:39-41, 44 ESV
- B. Being Ready!
("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") -Revelation 16:15 ESV

3. The Reunion: Christians will be with God Forever 17, 18

- A. Informed, Yet Still a Mystery
Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
-1 Corinthians 15:51-58 ESV
- B. Encourage one another
And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. -1 Corinthians 15:17-21 ESV

Reflection:

1. *Where are you going? How do you plan on getting there?*
2. *Does the coming of Jesus bring hope to you? What emotion usually comes to mind when you hear or read about the coming of Jesus?*