

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 4

Verse 13

1. This passage describes for us the next event on God's time-table, the rapture of the church.
2. What is the rapture? The rapture refers to the time when the body of Christ will be caught _____ together to meet Jesus in the air and live with Him for eternity.
3. Paul did not want them to be ignorant concerning them which were "asleep." Paul is obviously referring to those who had died.
 - Whenever the Bible refers to death as sleep, it is always in reference to the _____, not the soul. The body sleeps in the sense that it rests until God resurrects it into a new immortal and incorruptible body at the rapture.
 - The Bible teaches that when a believer dies, his _____ is instantly in the presence of God. Luke 23:42-43, 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Acts 7:59; Revelation 6:9-11

Verse 14

1. As Christians, we sorrow when our loved ones die simply because we will miss them. But we know it is not a _____ separation. It is only temporary.
2. We have _____ in Christ!
 - *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."* **1 Corinthians 15:19-20**

Verse 15

1. Paul assures them "*by the word of the Lord*" that those loved ones who have died in Christ will have a part in the rapture.
2. In fact, their resurrected bodies are going up _____ those that are still alive.
 - The word "*prevent*" simply means "_____."

- The end of verse 16 confirms this by saying, “...*the dead in Christ shall rise first.*”

Verse 16

Paul describes Jesus’ coming in three ways:

1. “With a _____”
 - This word “shout” means “a cry of incitement.” It refers to moving somebody to action.
2. “With the _____ of the archangel”
 - Christ’s voice will be majestic and full of authority.
3. “With the _____ of God”
 - When Christ speaks, it sounds like a trumpet. Revelation 1:10-11

Verse 17

1. Paul dealt with the dead in Christ in verse 16, but now he turns his attention to those who are _____ at Christ’s return.
2. What will happen to those which are alive? They will be “*caught up.*”
3. Paul says that when the rapture occurs, “...*and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

Verse 18

1. He starts out with the word “*Wherefore...*” In other words, “Based on what I just taught you in the previous five verses about the rapture, _____ one another.”
2. The reality of the rapture is a blessed _____.
 - “*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*” **Titus 2:13**