



Comfort from the Second Coming of the Lord

1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11

The Thessalonian Epistles: Paul's Discourse on the Second Coming of Christ

- 1Thes. 1:10
- 1Thes. 2:19
- 1Thes. 3:13
- 1Thes. 4:13-18
- 1Thes. 5:1-10
- 2Thes. 1:5-10
- 2Thes. 2:1-3



The Thessalonian Epistles: Paul's Discourse on the Second Coming of Christ

- 1Thes. 1:10 - "...Wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."
- 1Thes. 2:19 - "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"
- 1Thes. 3:13 - "...So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."

The Problem Of Sorrow

- 1Thes. 4:13 - “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.”
- The burden of grief brings great temptation with it .

The Problem Of Sorrow

- Christians are not immune to sorrow and the temptation it brings
 - Acts 20:37-38 - “Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship”
 - 2Cor. 2:7 - “...Forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.”
- Faith in the second coming of the Lord gives relief from the sorrow of separation in this life

The Promise For Those Who Sleep In Jesus

- 1Thes. 4:14-15 - “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.”
- John 5:28-29 - “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

What Do The Scriptures Mean By Fallen Asleep Or Sleep In Jesus?

- Matt. 27:52 - “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised”
- John 11:11-14 - “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.’ 13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead.’”
- Acts 7:60 - “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.”

What Do The Scriptures Mean By Fallen Asleep Or Sleep In Jesus?

- Deity views death as a sleep because God knows it is not a permanent condition and that the soul remains conscious.
- Nowhere do the Scriptures say that the soul falls asleep. It is the body that sleeps. Sleep is a figurative reference implying rest from the labor of living in this world.
 - Rev. 14:13 - “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

What Do The Scriptures Mean By Fallen Asleep Or Sleep In Jesus?

- As our souls now dwell in limited physical bodies; therefore, in the resurrection, God will awaken us with glorified immortal forms to house our souls.

What Do The Scriptures Mean By Fallen Asleep Or Sleep In Jesus?

- **The righteous dead are with Jesus**
 - 1Thes. 5:10 - "...who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him."
 - 2Cor. 5:8 - "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord"
 - Luke 23:43 - "And Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
 - Phil. 1:21-23 - "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

The Righteous Dead Will Precede Those Who Are Alive

- Some in Thessalonica feared those who had died would miss out on the blessings of Christ's coming. Paul reassures them by the word of the Lord that God will bring them with Jesus.

The Righteous Dead Will Precede Those Who Are Alive

- **The same word that tells of Christ's second coming**
 - 2Peter 3:9-10 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
- **The same word that lives and abides forever**
 - 1Peter 1:23-25 - “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

The Procedure For Christ's Coming

- It will be impossible to miss it
 - 1Thes. 4:16-17 - “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.”
 - Rev. 1:7 - “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

The Procedure For Christ's Coming

- **The coming of the Lord begins all end time events**
 - 2Thes. 2:1-2 - “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”
 - 1Thes. 5:1-3 - “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”
 - 2Thes. 1:7-8 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Procedure For Christ's Coming

- The dead in Christ will rise first
 - 1Thes. 4:14, 16 - “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus... 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.”
 - John 5:28-29 - “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

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The Procedure For Christ's Coming

- Those living in Christ will be transformed and caught up with the newly resurrected righteous dead
 - 1Cor. 15:51-53 - “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.”

The Procedure For Christ's Coming

- Acts 1:9-11 - “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

The Purpose Of These Words

- To protect us from sorrow that can harm our faith in the love and promises of God
 - 1Thes. 4:18 - “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

The Purpose Of These Words

- Comforting others after the passing of a loved one is a common human behavior
 - John 11:19 - “And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.”
 - Rom. 12:15 - “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

The Purpose Of These Words

- 2Cor. 1:3-4 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

The Purpose Of These Words

- Death need not be good bye, but simply good night.
- When the time comes for our loved ones pass on, will we be able to find comfort in this passage?
- Will those who survive us be comforted by its promise when they grieve at our passing?

The Unpublished Time Of His Return

- 1Thes. 5:2-4 - “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

The Unpublished Time Of His Return

- The Lord's coming will be a surprise for many
 - 2Peter 3:10 - “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
- But for those who heed the warnings in Scripture, that Day will not overtake them as a thief
 - 1Thes. 5:4 - “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

The Unpublished Time Of His Return

- No one knows on what day the Lord will come, including the righteous. But because the righteous are prepared, they will not suffer the shock and despair of those who are not prepared.
- The unrighteous, because they are unprepared, will feel great loss, as one who did not guard against thieves and awoke to find himself robbed.
- Matt. 24:43-44 - “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Unpublished Time Of His Return

- For some it will be inescapable destruction
 - 2Thes. 1:7-8 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”

The Unpublished Time Of His Return

- This day will be glorious for those who are prepared
 - 2Thes. 1:10 - "...when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed."

The Plan For His People Until His Reappearance

- 1Thes. 5:5-11 - “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

“We Are Children Of Light And Of The Day”

- Because we follow Jesus, the light of the world
 - John 12:35-36 - “Then Jesus said to them, A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

“We Are Children Of Light And Of The Day”

- Because we walk in the light
 - 1John 1:5-7 - “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

“We Are Children Of Light And Of The Day”

- Because we cast off the works of darkness
 - Rom. 13:11-12 - “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

We Are Watchful For His Coming

- 1Peter 4:7 - “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”
- Rev. 3:2-3 - “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

We Are To Be Sober

- Luke 21:34-36 - “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

We Put On The Armor Of God

- The breastplate of faith and love
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - 1John 3:16 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.”
- The hope of salvation as a helmet
 - Rom. 15:4 - “That we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Comforted and Edified

- Dual purposes of Paul's discourse on the second coming of the Lord:
 - 1Thes. 4:13-18 is designed to comfort Christians with promises of blessings that will attend the second coming of the Lord
 - 1Thes. 5:1-11 is designed to teach Christians to be prepared with warnings of the unknown date of the second coming of the Lord

We Comfort One Another

- 1Thes. 4:18 - “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”
- 2Cor. 1:3-4 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

We Edify One Another

- Rom. 14:19 - “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
- Rom 15:2 - “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.”

Comfort from the Second Coming of the Lord

- Be at peace in your minds and hearts; we will see all of the faithful Christians who have passed away when we ascend to meet the Lord at His second coming.
- Be vigilant in your thoughts, words, and actions; the Lord can come at any time; therefore, it is essential that we be prepared for His return.