

Hope-filled Sleep > 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

4:13-14 *Hope.* Often, we approach passages like these with all kinds of questions and assumptions. What we need to do most, however, is to let the Scriptures speak. Why does Paul write these things? So that the Thessalonians would be able to grieve in a way that is still based on hope in Christ.

4:15-17 *Forever.* Paul doesn't answer every question we might have about the end times. Instead, he simply points to Christ: Jesus will return, the dead will rise, every Christian still alive at that time will join together with them and with Him.

4:18 *Encourage.* The passage ends on a similar note to how it began: Christians have hope even in light of death, even in light of questions we still have. Because we have hope, we are called to encourage one another.

Background: At this point in the letter, Paul seems to be responding to several questions that the Thessalonians had (or, perhaps, situations that Timothy observed while visiting).

The Point: We need not worry about the fate of any who die in Christ. They will not miss out on any blessing or joy that He has promised to those who love Him.

Head: Know that Christ's return will be a time of joy. There will be no hint of sorrow or of "missing out" for any Christian.

Heart: Believe that the Lord's plan is for the joy of His people, and that this joy should change how you grieve.

Hands: How does the resurrection of Christ give you hope for your own resurrection? How will you be a part of encouraging others at church who are grieving?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
