**Lesson 6**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

**Chapter 14**

**Verse13**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1. “The rest who have no hope” are unbelievers. They grieve differently than those who have hope. Paul wants them to be informed about the believers in Jesus who have died. He is not saying that believers don’t grieve, but that because they have hope, they grieve differently.

**Verses 14-16**

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1. **Those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (those who believe in the resurrection, see Rom. 10:9-10), God will bring with Him. Just as Jesus rose from the grave, so will the bodies of those who have fallen asleep.**
   1. ***This is speaking of their bodies. When we die we, we vacate our earthly body, and our spirit and soul go to be with the Lord until this event that Paul is going to describe.***

***2 Corinthians 5:1-5***

*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.****2****For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.****4****For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.****5****Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee .6So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.* *7For we walk by faith, not by sight.* *8****We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.***

1. **“The coming of the Lord” refers to Christ’s return for His own. We who are alive when this happens will not go ahead of those who have already died in Christ.**
2. **The bodies of the “dead in Christ” will rise first. Immediately prior to their resurrection, Jesus will descend from heaven with a shout! Not only a shout of Jesus, but a shout of an archangel. Not only with their shouts, but with the trumpet of God.**
3. ***This scripture is where we get expressions such as “when the trumpet of the Lord shall sound” and “when He calls us home”.***
4. ***Paul says it again. The bodies of those who have died in Christ will rise first.***

**Verse 17**

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1. **“We who are alive and remain” is speaking of believers still alive when this event happens. This is commonly called “the rapture” or “our blessed hope”.**
2. **Some have used the fact that the word “rapture” does occur here in the Greek or English to make light of the concept, which is ridiculous.** The word “caught up” is “harpazō” (har-pad'-zo) in the Greek. It means -to seize): - catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force). When translating the word “harpazo” into Latin, the translators used the Latin word “rapto”, which means the same thing. (Rapto = rapture in Spanish, for example). This is where we get the term “rapture”. It’s a translation of a translation. “Rapture” is a perfectly fine term to describe this event of being snatched off the earth by our Lord.
3. **Paul describes the same event to the Corinthians. When the rapture happens, our bodies will be changed from mortal bodies to immortal, from corruptible bodies to incorruptible bodies. Think of that! Our bodies will never be able to die or be corrupted!**

***1 Corinthians 15:51-54***

*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.****54****So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

1. **There are some false teachings circulating today that teach that since these words were written to the Thessalonians, that they only applied to believers during that time period, and that is thus doesn’t apply to us.** They teach against the idea of a rapture. Yet there is zero historical evidence that all the believers in the whole earth were ever simultaneously missing at any time. Let alone is there evidence of empty graves of multiple thousands of believers.
2. **When this event will take place has been a bed of controversy and contention for centuries!** Some say it will happen prior to the last seven years before Christ’s ultimate return (pre-trib). Some say it will be 3 ½ years before (mid-trib). Others argue for it happening at the very end of the seven years (post-trib). Each has their arguments. We believe it will happen before the seven years, but see no reason to be contentious about it. It is going to happen as it is going to happen, and arguing about it won’t change God’s plans.

**Verse 18**

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1. **It brings us comfort to know that there is a life after this one and that our loved ones who died in Christ are with Him, and that one day, all of us will be raised in Him.** His return is our blessed hope.

***Titus 2:11-14***

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,****12****teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,****13looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14****who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

**Chapter 5**

**Verses 1-2**

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

1. **Evidently, Paul had taught on this subject before.**
2. **This is one of the verses where we get our term “imminent” return of Christ, meaning it could happen at anytime. No one sets a time for a thief to come and rob their belongings. He sneaks in when no one is expecting him.**

**Verse 3**

While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

1. **“They” here are the unsaved. Up until the rapture, “they” will think all is well.** This is why those who believe the rapture is either mid-trip or pre-trib believe it can’t be post-trib, since prior to the end of the tribulation, all hell will be breaking loose, and no one will be saying that it’s peaceful or safe. After the Christians are removed from the earth, there will be huge changes world-wide. Finally, those troublesome Christians will be gone. Imagine a world with no Christians in it. It will set in motion a string of endtime events that will be as intense as labor pains.

**Verses 4-5**

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

1. **The “brethren” are the believers. We are not going to be surprised by this day.** We know it is coming and that it could happen at any time. Some use this verse to “prove” that this means we will know the day and the hour either because it will happen mid-trib (since certain prophetic events will take place).
2. **We believe it just means that since we are sons of light, we will have a sense of that day approaching.** It could also mean that we live in such a way that we always look for His appearing. We are of the day, not the night.

**Verses 6-7**

So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

1. **& 7. These verses speak of our need to be alert, looking for His coming. We aren’t those who sleep spiritual and get drunk. We are awake and sober, fully aware!**

**Verse 8**

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1. **A drunk has little awareness of what is going on around him/her. We are not unaware. We are of the. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love. Faith and love. Sound familiar. Our helmet is the hope of salvation.**

**Verses 9-10**

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

1. We are not destined for wrath, but we will be saved through our faith in Jesus.
2. Jesus died for us. So if we are dead or alive, we will live together with Him.

**Verse 11**

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1. “Therefore”—because the dead in Christ and we will live together with Him and because we aren’t appointed for wrath, we can encourage and edify each other.