

A Certain Future
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. The Christian's Future Is Anchored in Hope (13-14)

Those without Christ Are Without Hope

Paul is writing to comfort those whose loved ones have died. It is likely that many have died because of persecution.

• **Sleep is a biblical euphemism for** _____

This is the death of the body not the spirit. Death is the ceasing of physical existence but not conscious existence.

Luke 16:22-23, "the rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes..."

Believers Who Have Died Are _____

• **Some Christians will be** _____ **when Jesus returns**

Their bodies are in the dust of the earth or the depths of the seas. Jesus will bring their souls with Him when He returns.

2 Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

This is just as sure as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Believers Who Have Died Have the Hope of _____

2. The Christian's Future Is Secured In Jesus (15-17)

Jesus Himself Is Coming For Us

This fulfills the promise He made to the disciples and to the church. John 14:3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Acts 1:11, "...This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

• **Some Christians will be** _____ **when Jesus returns**

Paul is giving the order of events. The dead are described as "in Christ". This is a term Paul uses in his epistles to refer to Church Age believers.

This Event Marks the End of the _____

• **Christians who are alive will be** _____

The words "shall be caught up" are the translation of one word. It is a compound word which means to catch away and up. It is in the passive tense. This event is often referred to as the Rapture.

Believers Who Are Alive Have the Hope of _____

• **All Christians have the promise of** _____

1 Corinthians 15:50-53, ".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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed.."

Philippians 3:20-21, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

Glorification Isn't Reconstruction It Is

(1) His body was recognizable but _____

Mary Magdalene at first did not recognize Him until He spoke to her (John 20:11-18)

(2) His body was resurrected but _____

Jesus declared that His body had "flesh and bones" and could be touched and felt (Luke 24:39). Jesus ate food in His resurrected body (Luke 24:41-43)

(3) His body was physical yet _____

His body could appear and vanish (Luke 24:31, 36)

There Is Continuity Yet _____

3. The Christian's Present is To Be Impacted by His Future (18)

The Pattern of Scripture

Some of the most practical teaching in the New Testament is found in 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

• **Prophetic teaching is always applied to _____ living**

1 Corinthians 15:58, Titus 2:11-14, 1 John 3:2-3, Romans 13:11-12

A Certain Future Should Produce Confident _____ Living