

**IF JESUS
SHOULD
RETURN TODAY**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - continued

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Introduction

A. Jesus is coming again

1. Jesus promised His return

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

2. The angel proclaimed His promise

Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Introduction

B. Relatively few allow this to change their lives

Revelation 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 22:12

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Introduction

C. Signs that make us feel the coming of the Lord is near

Matthew 24:7-8

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Luke 21:28

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

I. If Jesus Should Come Today, The Christian Dead Would Be Raised (4:13-16)

A. First: The sound of the trumpet and the voice of the archangel

B. Second: The dead in Christ rise first

1. The grave is not a place of despair

1 Corinthians 15:55

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I. If Jesus Should Come Today, The Christian Dead Would Be Raised (4:13-16)

B. Second: The dead in Christ rise first - continued

2. Christians go to heaven when they die

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

3. The Lord returns bringing Christians with Him to resurrect their bodies (v 14)

I. If Jesus Should Come Today, The Christian Dead Would Be Raised (4:13-16)

C. This resurrection means a reunion of body, soul, and spirit

1 Corinthians 15:52-54

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall 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 shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I. If Jesus Should Come Today, The Christian Dead Would Be Raised (4:13-16)

D. The new body will be like the body of Christ

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

II. If Jesus Should Come Today, Living Christians Would Escape Death (4:15-17)

A. Death has taken its toil through the centuries

B. Death is inescapable

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

II. If Jesus Should Come Today, Living Christians Would Escape Death (4:15-17)

C. But not all Christians will die as we think of death

1. Those living when Jesus comes will be caught up and changed

1 Corinthians 15:51

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

2. All believers living when Christ comes will be changed (transformed/transferred)

III. If Jesus Should Come Today, Some Would Be Ashamed

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

III. If Jesus Should Come Today, Some Would Be Ashamed

A. Abiding in Him that we may have confidence

1. In our spiritual state

John 12:46

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

III. If Jesus Should Come Today, Some Would Be Ashamed

A. Abiding in Him that we may have confidence = cont'd

2. In our physical state

John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Matthew 24:46

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

III. If Jesus Should Come Today, Some Would Be Ashamed

B. The suddenness of His coming ...at the wrong time?

Revelation 3:3

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

**Are You Willing To Let This Truth Of
Christ's Return Change Your Life?**