



1 Thessalonians - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 7 – Sunday 16th August 2020: 1 Thessalonians 4.9-18 - The Last Hope

Please read 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

It seems the Thessalonians were so focused on the return of Jesus within their lifetime that the death of members of their church family raised distressing questions. They are concerned that Christians who have already died might somehow miss out on the glory of Christ's return.

1. Is that a question or concern that has ever troubled you?
2. Today, perhaps the danger for the church is that we don't live with any real expectation that Jesus will return soon, or even within our lifetimes. Perhaps we rarely think about His return at all. What implications does this have for how we live the life of faith? And, specifically, for how we grieve with hope?

Please read v14, along with John 14.1-7 and Romans 6.5-10

3. How do these truths and promises remove fearful uncertainty regarding believers who have 'fallen asleep,' and how do they bring certain hope?

Please read verses 15-17

4. How does the picture/ analogy of the Closing Ceremony at the Olympic Games (shared in the service) help illustrate the idea of the gathering in these verses?

At the Lord's command, in an unmistakable, earth-stopping event, all the family of God will be gathered together by Him - His family from every nation, tribe, people and language, from the past and the present. We will gather with some familiar faces and many whom we have never met in our lifetime. The beginning of a new chapter: the new creation, with new bodies fit for the new adventure; together, with the Lord.

5. How do you anticipate this event, and how does it impact your sense of hope for those who have 'fallen asleep' in Christ?

Please read verse 18

6. How do these words encourage you?
7. How might you use them to encourage others this week?