

January 24, 2016

“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: He is Coming!”

1 Thessalonians Chapters 4:13-5:11

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16

A. All of us are terminal...

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.” Vs 4:13

1. Those who have passed, are asleep in Christ.
“we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death...”
2. There is hope for those who are asleep in Christ.
“so you will not grieve like people who have no hope...”
3. There is hope because we believe in the resurrection of Jesus.
“For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again...” Vs. 4:14
4. There is hope because there will be a reunion for all of us, as those who have been asleep in Christ will return with Him.
“we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.” Vs. 4:14

B. Jesus is coming again...

1. Jesus is coming again for His bride...the church!
“...when the Lord returns...” Vs. 4:15
2. Jesus is coming with a shout and the trumpet call of God!
“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God.” Vs 4:16
3. Jesus is coming and the first to rise will be those asleep in Christ!
“First, the believers who have died^[a] will rise from their graves.” Vs. 4:16

4. Jesus is coming and the second to rise will be we who are longing for his Appearing!
“Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” Vs. 4:17
“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8
5. Then...we will all be together forever...
“Then we will be with the Lord forever.” Vs. 4:17

C. When will Jesus return?

Signs of the End of the Age: Matthew 21, Mark 13, Luke 21
“I don’t think, friends, that I need to deal with the question of when all this is going to happen. You know as well as I that the day of the Master’s coming can’t be posted on our calendars. He won’t call ahead and make an appointment any more than a burglar would.” Vs. 5:1-3 The Message

1. Jesus’ return will catch the world by surprise.
“About the time everybody’s walking around complacently, congratulating each other—“We’ve sure got it made! Now we can take it easy!”—suddenly everything will fall apart. It’s going to come as suddenly and inescapably as birth pangs to a pregnant woman.” Vs 5:1-3 The Message
2. Jesus’ return always warns to keep ready.
“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” Matthew 24:42-44
3. Jesus’ return will not catch us, as believers, by surprise.
“But friends, you’re not in the dark, so how could you be taken off guard by any of this? You’re sons of Light, daughters of Day. We live under wide open skies and know where we stand.” Vs 5:4
4. Jesus’ return will reward His waiting servants.
“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.” Matthew 24:45-46

D. So...how do we respond to the news of Jesus’ return?

1. Encourage one another with these words!
“Therefore encourage one another with these words.” Vs. 4:18
2. Realize that God’s heart for us is salvation, not wrath!
“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.” Vs. 5:9-10
3. Be clearheaded and protect yourself with faith and love...and the mental confidence of our salvation.
“But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.” Vs. 5:8
4. And don’t forget to encourage each other...
“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” Vs. 5:11

Coming Next:
January 31, 2016

“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: A Final Punch List!”

1 Thessalonians Chapters 5:12-28

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18