

Journey Through the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 3-5 – 2 Thessalonians 1-2

Series: An Apostle's Epistles

The Message to the Thessalonians

9-22-19

Introduction

At an earlier time, Paul had preached the gospel to the Thessalonians with great response. He longed to go back for a visit but was prevented from doing so. Paul sent his faithful companion, Timothy, to visit them and bring back a report of their faith. (Chapters 1-3) Upon Timothy's return, Paul sent the Thessalonians a letter of thanksgiving, encouragement and instruction. His guidance for them provides foundational principles for us as well.

Paul addresses questions and offers words of assurance to the Thessalonians who were concerned about "the Lord's coming" and "those who have died in Jesus." We find hope and encouragement for we too have questions about the mysteries of life and death.

Opening Prayer

O God, life and death are full of glorious mystery. You are our hope in all things. Give us peace and confidence to trust in your grace so that whether in this world or the next, we are yours through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Bible Study 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 (CEB)

What?

1. What did Paul mean when he said do not "mourn like others who do not have any hope?" (v. 14)
2. What hope is there for believers who have already died?
3. What is our hope as we consider Jesus' final return? (15-18)
4. What beliefs and questions have you encountered regarding death, resurrection of the body and Christ's return?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

1. What does this tell us about predictions and dates for the "the day of the Lord?"

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

1. Regarding salvation, what assurance do we have through Christ? (v. 9-10)

2. In the meantime, what foundational things should we be focused on as we live the Christian life in this world? (v.8)

So What?

1. What experiences and learning have shaped your view of death and dying?
2. When you consider death, what do you find in chapters four and five that is hopeful and encouraging?
3. Have you encountered people who “mourn without hope?”
4. What other questions come to mind when you consider the topic of death, resurrection and the end times?

Lesson Notes:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. This verse reminds us that our spirit, soul and body are in good hands. God is faithful and **he** will make our whole being blameless as we place our hope and faith in Christ. The Spirit works in our lives so whether in life or death we are secure. Today's discussion is a brief introduction on the themes of death, resurrection and the end times. We will have opportunities for further discussion in more of Paul's writings and as we discuss the book of Revelation.

Now What?

1. What faithful and hopeful conclusions can we make concerning these mysterious topics?

Closing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

--2 Thessalonians 5:28