

Sermon Discussion Guide

The Comfort of Christ's Coming

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The situation/context (13, 18)

- What seems to have been concerning the Thessalonians?
- What is Paul's goal for them in through this section of Scripture?

The comfort of the coming resurrection (14, 16b)

1 Cor 15:3-5; 15:50-52; Phil 1:23

- What is the connection that Paul assumes between what happened to Jesus and what will happen to believers?
- What is the difference between belief in an afterlife and belief in the resurrection?
- What are ways that the resurrection comforts us as believers?

The comfort of the coming reunion (15-17)

Acts 1:10-11; John 5:25-29; 1 Cor 15:52

- What is Paul emphasizing from the timing of the events in this passage?
- How does the fact that we will be "together with" believers who have died bring us comfort?
- How does the fact that we will be "together with" other believers encourage us to reach out and pursue relationships with others?

The comfort of the coming reception (17-18)

- What is significant about the language of Christ's "coming" (parousia) and "meeting" him?
- How does the fact that "we will always be with the Lord" bring us comfort?
- What is significant about the promise of "being with the Lord" in redemptive history? How is this promise seen in Jesus' first and second comings?