

Hope and Comfort in Grief

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Main Point:

Knowing what happens to believers after death, be comforted in your grief by the hope you are given through Christ.

1. You can know what happens to believers after death.
2. When believers die, their souls go directly to be with Jesus.
3. Then, at the 2nd Coming, their bodies will be raised from the dead.
4. After the resurrection, they will then be reunited with all other believers to live with Jesus forever.
5. God gives you this knowledge so that you can have hope and comfort in the midst of grief.

Cross-References and Quotations

Richard Phillips “So many problems in the experience of believers today likewise stem from ignorance of biblical truth, so that the great need of God's people is the careful teaching of Scripture.”

2 Corinthians 5:8 ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (NKJV)

WSC 37 Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? A The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united in Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

Andrew Young “Death does not dissolve the bond between a believer and the Lord. It merely ushers them into his more immediate presence in glory ... where they wait with him for the end of this present age ...”

John 5:28-29 ²⁸ "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ "and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 ⁴² So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. (NKJV)

1 John 3:2 ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (NKJV)

J.C. Ryle “Our pleasant communion with our kind Christian friends is only broken off for a small moment, and is soon to be eternally resumed. These eyes of ours shall once more look upon their faces, and these ears of ours shall once more hear them speak. Blessed and happy indeed will that meeting be! - better a thousand times than the parting!”

2 Peter 3:10, 13 ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up ... ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (NKJV)

Revelation 21:3 ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. (NKJV)

Daniel Hyde “Grieving is part of being human. But it is transformed for us as believers.”