Big Idea: God's promise of life after death brings hope that motivates faithfulness.

Hope in the resurrection brings:

(1) Courage to face trouble and death (vv.1-3)

Romans 8:35-39³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation...

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

(2) Freedom from anxious speculation and worldly confidence (vv. 4-7)

2 Timothy 4:8 ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up 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 loved his appearing.

Hebrews 9:28 ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

(3) Perseverance till the end (vv. 8-13)

Revelation 7:14 "... These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Benediction:

Daniel 12:13...But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."