

Evidence of a Healthy Church: Sanctification in the Midst of Grief

1. Comfort in the Midst of Grief (vs.13)

A. Paul's purpose is pastoral – to _____ those grieving over having lost loved ones; **vs.13,18**

B. Paul answers the question: What happens to Christians when they die?

1. They are “asleep”; Gk. where we get _____; means sleeping place, like dormitory

*used uniquely for Christians and refers to their bodies, temporarily asleep; **Jn11:11**

***1Cor15:6,18,51; 2Pe3:4**

*Christians' bodies are unconscious, but our spirit is eternally conscious

***Phil1:23; 2Cor5:8; *Ex.Acts7:59,60**

*Our bodies will be awakened, new, glorified by Christ, united w/ our spirit! **Phil3:20-21**

2. So do not “grieve” like the world, who has no hope – No _____ for believers!

*Christians **NEVER** truly say good-bye, as not to see our loved ones again; we will be reunited at the great gathering together of the Bride of Christ, the Church, AND we will recognize/know each other!!! ***1Thess4:17; 1Thess2:19-20; 2Thess2:1**

*We have complete confidence – is someone lost to us when we know where they are?

2. Foundation of the “Rapture” – the great gathering up of the Church to Christ in the air (vs.14-15,17)

A. Rapture - Latin for Gk. word, “caught up” (vs.17) – means snatched up w/ great force

*Always used to comfort in distress – **John14:1-3**, Jesus leaving; 1Cor15, denying resurrection

B. Notice _____: the catching away of Church to Christ, then God's judgment, day of the Lord, chp5

1. The rapture happens before the Tribulation judgment; **2Thes2:1-3; order 1Th4,5; 1Thes1:10**

2. Why would God pour out His wrath on His bride, when she is to be spotless?! ***Eph5:25-32**

C. 3 Foundation Stones of the Rapture – What is this promise built on? (vs.14-15)

1. Christ's _____ – His death paid the debt for our crimes against God, to save us eternally

*Made right w/ God: **Rom5:1; Rom6:23; 1Jn2:1-2; 1Cor15:54-57**

2. Christ's _____ – since God raise Christ from the dead, He will raise us; 1Cor15

***Notice:** 1Thess4:14b “even so”; **Jn14:19; 1Cor6:14; 2Cor4:14** (notice know each other)

*Christ's resurrection is 100% proof, we will be raised, gathered to Him, as in passage!

3. Christ's _____ – “by the word of the Lord”; **different** than Olivet Discourse of Jesus

*Matthew: Jesus comes in clouds, angels gather from all over world; no order of ascent

*1Thess: we go **TO** Jesus in air, ascend in clouds; Jesus Himself gathers us; specific order

*Christ's revelation to Paul of the mysteries! ***1Cor15:51; Gal1:11,12**

***Take Comfort Today! **Romans15:13; 1Cor15:50-58!!!**