

A Study of 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18
Loosening The Grip Of Grief
Dr. Larry Lamb – December 9, 2018

Wise is the person who makes plans for what lies ahead. We have *insurance* to protect our stuff but often give little or no consideration to the *assurance* of our soul.

Here's the center of their question:

"What happens to Christians who die before the Lord's return? Will they miss the opportunity to be in heaven because of their death?"

Six Sequential Truths That Help Remove the Mystery of a Christian's Death
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

1. Death for the Christian is not to be a **MYSTERY** . (v.13a)
 Death is a mystery only if you do not know where you will spend your eternal life.
2. There is a difference between grieving and grieving **WITHOUT** hope. (v.13b)
 Are you going through your life with hope or going through life without hope?
3. A Christian's hope is directly **LINKED** to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (v.14)
1 Corinthians 15. 14 *And if Christ was not raised, then all our preaching is useless and your trust in God is useless.*
4. God has a special plan (vs. 15, 16)
Matthew 24.42 *So be prepared, because you don't know what day your Lord is coming.*
5. One day we will be **REUNITED** with those we love and miss. (v.17)

6. God knew we would hurt so He gave us His peace to control the **ATMOSPHERE** of our heart. (v.18)

“When a Christian dies, they don’t leave home, they are home.” RICK WARREN

- Heaven is a real place where real people go.

- If your life came to a conclusion in the next 7 days, would the Christians who are left behind to plan your service know that this is a temporary separation?

- Before you leave this campus today, what if you had some questions answered about your life in eternity? What if you stopped putting-off the most important decision you could ever make and put your hand into the crucified hands of Christ and simply asked to be forgiven of your sins? *How different your eternity will be!*

Revelation 20.15 *And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book Of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

We can make the wisest decision in life to accept the free gift of eternal life. Today, we can know that we have the assurance of heaven based on the life, the cross, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*The moment you take His hand by faith, claiming His home as your own,
you can look forward, even in troubled times...with hope.*

*Because your name is now written in the Lamb’s book of life,
never to be erased.*

Because this world is not your home.

Because death does not have the final word.

Because failure is not final.

*Because one day your faith will become sight and
you will see the gates of pearl flung open for you.*

*Because best of all, you will see God’s face and
hear God’s voice say, “Welcome to your Father’s house.”*

ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ

Prayer of salvation . . . God, I have pushed You and Your free gift of salvation aside long enough. My sin has separated me from You. I know that there is nothing I can do to earn this free gift. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I ask Jesus Christ to be the Lord of my life by faith. I invite You in. Amen.