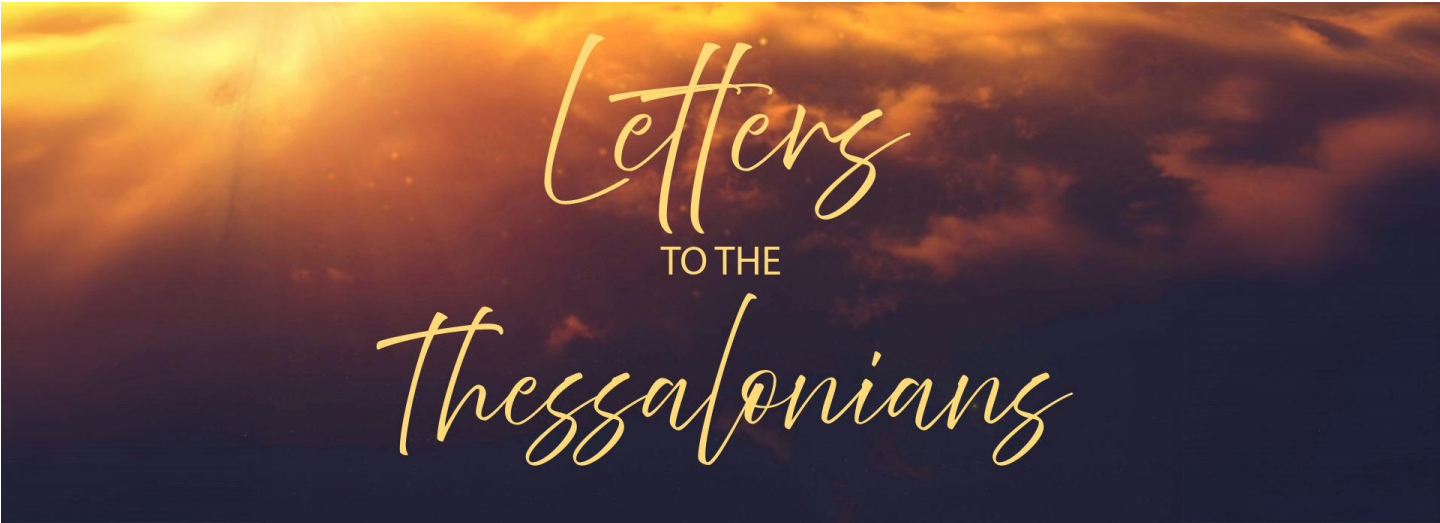




Letters TO THE Thessalonians

Week 5 – Hope That Holds Us

Main Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

♦ INTRODUCTION

- Hope is one of the most powerful words in our vocabulary.
 - We use it casually—“*I hope it rains*”—but in Scripture, hope is more than a wish.
 - In Christ, hope is an **assurance** rooted in His resurrection and His promised return.
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MESSAGE OUTLINE

1. Hope We Possess, Not Just Express

- 1 Thessalonians 1:3 — “faith, love, and hope” are the marks of a believer.
- Hope isn’t just wishing—it is the patient expectation that Christ will fulfill His word.
- Paul reminds the church not to grieve like those who have “no hope.”

2. The Foundation of Hope: The Resurrection (4:13–15)

- Our hope is anchored in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Because He rose, we can believe His promise to raise those who sleep in Him.
- Timothy Keller: *"If Jesus rose from the dead, you have to accept all He said."*

3. The Promise of Hope: Christ's Return (4:16–18)

- The Lord Himself will return with a shout, a trumpet, and angelic voice.
- The dead in Christ will rise first, then the living will join them.
- This is our **Blessed Hope**—eternal life with Christ forever.
- "Therefore, comfort one another with these words."

4. The Urgency of Hope: Be Watchful (5:1–8)

- The Day of the Lord will come suddenly, like a thief in the night.
 - Believers are called **children of light**—alert, sober, and ready.
 - Faith, love, and hope function as our armor (the preview of Ephesians 6).
 - Our hope guards our minds like a helmet.
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5. The Confidence of Hope: Salvation Assured (5:9–11)

- God has not appointed us to wrath, but to salvation through Jesus Christ.
 - Whether we are awake or asleep, alive or dead, we will live together with Him.
 - Hope strengthens the church—we are to **encourage and build one another up**.
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FINAL TAKEAWAY

- Christian hope is not fragile—it is fixed in the risen and returning Christ.
- Hope strengthens our faith and fuels our love.
- Hope calls us to readiness, courage, and endurance until Jesus comes.
- Hope comforts us in loss and reminds us: *death does not get the final word*.