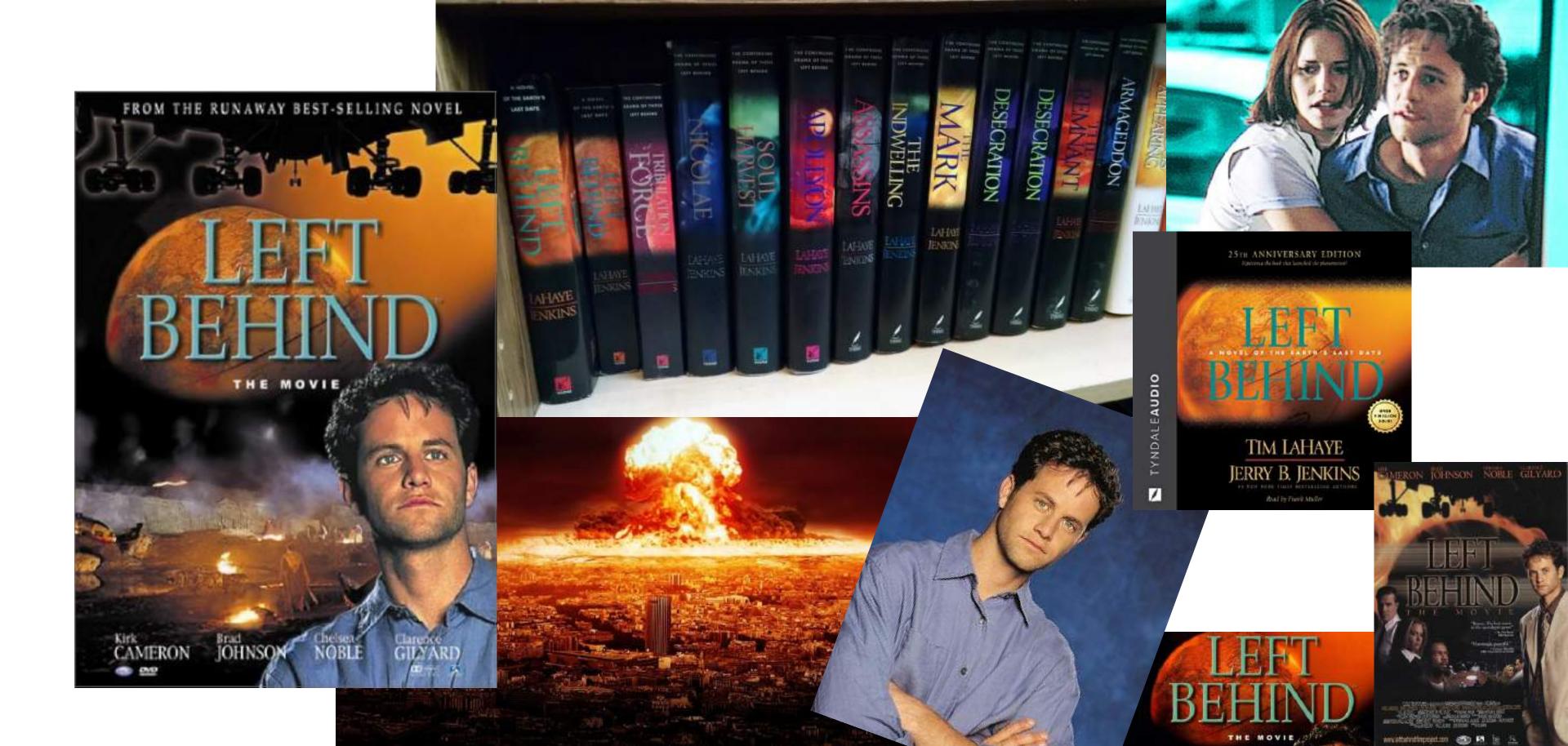
our God and tarner, instead he here gentle among you, as a horse presence of the Lord hy your labor motinerteres her own children. We coved so much for not you? Thyleed you industance inspired by fore, when we could n you that we were pleased to share with you not For we know, brothers only the gospel of God but also our our lines, It was better to be at he has chosen you he sent Timothys because you had become dear to us. For you reome to you in word only. member by labor and hardship, brothers and in the gospel of Chri Spirit, and with full Sisters. Working right and day so that we age you concerning any of you, we preached God's ull be shaken but. red among you for eres became imitato one witnesses, and so is God, of yourselves Know H n spite of severe per-Now derovotly, night-country, and blanciessly we the fact, when we wer ressage with boy from advance fruit ue ne conduct. ction, and as you kn you because on becamble Khow, I THESSALONIANS, when I could no longer s denia and Achara. encoro find out about your t g out from you, not only that his own kingdom and grong. This is uny ter had tempted you In every place on you and broug he constantly thank God, beed gore out therefore, fre word of Good frat you hea las for they themselves faith and love. He v we had from you: belcomed it not as a human message, but als it thuly is, the word of God, which also have good memores idols to serve the works effectively in you who believe toryou See us, as we also be want for his son from brothers and sisters, became initations of om the dead - fesus, byothers and systems ing wrath. For you Good's churches in christ feels that are in Judea, afflictions he here d groters, that Your gince you have also suffered the same things your faith. For how is the bord. How can not result on the from people of your own country, just as







Will our loved ones who have died miss out on the return of Christ??

Paul's Five Lessons on the Return of Christ

1.
Christians ought not to grieve the loss of Christian loved ones *in an unchristian* way. (v.13)

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, *that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.* 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep."

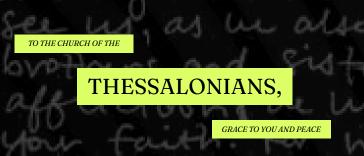




Believers can rejoice that Christian loved ones live with Jesus and will come back with him when he returns. (v.14)

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, *God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep*. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep."

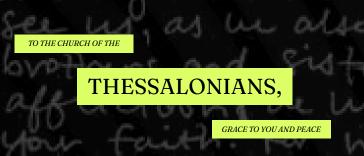




Christians alive at the return of Christ will have *no advantage* over those who have already died. (v.15)

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep."

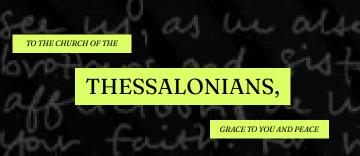




Christians alive at the return of Christ will be "caught up together" with those accompanying Christ to "meet the Lord in the air." (v.16-17)

"For **the Lord himself will descend from heaven** with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up together** with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words."









It is interesting, however, to observe that the term used in this passage for "meeting" the Lord in the air (Gk. Apantēsis) is the same word that was often used for a welcome and escort provided for a returning king or visiting dignitary to an ancient Greco-Roman city. The two other appearances of this word in the New Testament match this usage exactly.

DR. CRAIG BLOMBERG



5As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

MATTHEW 25:5-7



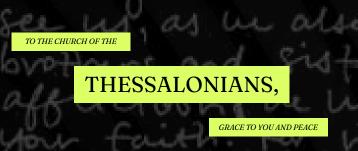
15 And the brothers there (Rome), when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

ACTS 28:15



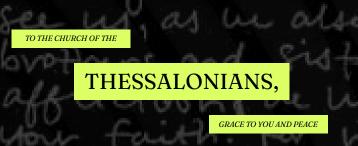
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Paul's message is meant to encourage and comfort, not divide. (v.18)

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words."



our God and farmer instead he here dentic among you, as is here presence of the Lord hy your labor motinerteres her own children we cared so much for not you? Indeed you nduhance inspired low you front we were pleased to share with you not fore, when we could v For we know, brothers only the gospel of God but also our our live. It was better to be at he has chosen you he Sent Timothys because you had become dear to us. For you remember by labor and hardship, brothers and in the gospel of Chri ome to you in word only, Systems. Working right and day so that we Spirit and with full ace you concerning would not burden any of you, we preached God's ull be shaken but. red amona you for unes became imitators gospel to you you one witnesses, and so is God, al yourselves Know A Now devolthy, nontcountly, and blanciessy we a spite of severe perbh fact, when we wer conducted our selves with you believers. As you advance fruit we we nessage with boy from got became in les plu Kron and a confirment de la soloned e che en soloned e che en de la de la la de la la confirment solone en la confirment de la confirment re constantly thank God, because the recieved for nothing. But wow fore out therefore, (q; for they themselves from you and broug fre word of Good frat you heard from Us, you belcomed it not as a human message, but als fauth and love. He v we had from you: it thuly is, the word of God, which also none good memories idols to serve the want for his from from works effectively in you who believe tory fee us, as he also ke brothers and sisters bolcome initations ago on the dead - fests, byothers and systems ing wrath. For you Good's churches in christ fears that are in Judea gince you have also suffered the same things your fauth. For how d brothers, that your from Beople of your own country, just as is the bord. How can not result on the

1. Build your hope by looking to the return of Christ.

- Read the text for yourself; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
- Read it at dinner with family and have a conversation. (Beginner)
- Read it with friends from church and have a conversation. (Intermediate)
- Read it with non-believers and have a conversation. (Advanced)
- **Pray**, thanking God for the promise of Jesus's return!

2. <u>Don't allow</u> the rapture to become the focus of your theology.

- Have you studied the beginning (Genesis) as much or more than the end (Revelation)?
- Have you studied the Law, the Prophets, and the Gospels?
- Does your discipleship and disciple-making focus on the gospel message?

LIVETHE TEXT