

**Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.**

**>>> A. Background: About 1 Year Earlier Taught Of Return Of Jesus, Glorious Kingdom, Divine Blessings. Greatly Anticipating!**

- At Least One, Maybe More Christians Had Died.
- Troubled Them. Miss Out?
- Guilty Of Sin, Under God's Wrath?
- Never Together Again? Fear Their Own Deaths?

**>>> B. Next Section Of Letter Paul Gives Needed Instructions For Christians Dealing With Death And Christians Fearing Judgement Day.**

**Life Point: Jesus' Death And Resurrection Means That Christians Should Be Hopeful About Death And Confident About Judgement Day.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-15. 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.<sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 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.**

**>>> A. Vs. 13. “We Do Not Want You To Be Uniformed, Brothers, About Those Who Fall Asleep...”**

- “Sleep” = Christian Euphemism For Death.
- “Uniformed” Or Ignorance Can Lead To Unhealthy Negative Thinking: Fear, Despair, Worry, Uncertainty.

**Haiti Trip Ill.** Information About Flight, Landing, Political Situation, Food, Etc.  
Information Alleviates Concerns, Misunderstandings, Fears.

**>>> B. Death Can Be Looked At Negatively By Uninformed Christians: Dreaded, Punishment, Hopeless.**

**Sternly Called In To Captain's Office Ill.** Everyone There. Frowns, Anger. Joke. Promoted. Ignorance Led To Fear, Worry. Insight Would Have Had Opposite Impact!

**>>> C. Christians Should Have A Different, And Far Better, Perspective On Death Than The World.**

- Temporary Condition “Asleep.” Explain: Substitute Word To Better Convey Truth.
- Jesus Died But We Just “Fall Asleep.” Escape The True Horror, Separation Of Death.
- Explain Mistaken Doctrine Of Soul-Sleep. (Body Is Asleep-Not Your Soul.)

**>>> D. Vs. 13. “That You May Not Grieve As Others Have No Hope...”**

- “Others” = Non-Christians. No Good Reason For Confidence In Life After Death.

**Two People Falling From Plane Ill.** Open Parachute, Flapping Arms. Same Destination Of Ground. Different Outcome. Don't Fear Like One W/O Hope!  
Flapping Arms May Have False Hope!

**>>> E. Generally True Of Unbelievers And Sometimes Uncertain Christians:**

- Vague, Tepid, Uncertain View Of Afterlife At Best. Stoic Resignation, Avoidance At All Costs, But Not True Hope.

**>>> F. Christians Have Just As Deep A Grief At Facing Loved One's Death Or Their Own Death. Not The Intensity Of Feelings That Is Different!**

- Grief With Hope Instead Of Grief Without Hope.
- Hope = Unrealized, Not Uncertain.

**>>> G. Vs. 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...”**

**>>> H. Jesus’ Resurrection Proves Two Things: Proves His Power Over Death And Proves That His Promises Are Trustworthy. Verse 14.**

- Two Radical Expectations: Resurrection Of Our Bodies And Return Of Jesus Christ. Why Believe? A Radical Event In The Past.
- The More You Believe In The One, The More You Expect The Other.

**>>> I. Realistic Basis Of Hope: Historical, Witnessed, Evidenced Resurrection.**

- Not: Philosophical Speculations, “I Saw A Tunnel, Light” Stories, Flimsy Expectations Based On Fables, Wishful Thinking!

**>>> J. Vs. 14b. “God Will Bring With Him Those Who Have Fallen Asleep...”**

- Speaking Of Promised Return Of Jesus.

**>>> K. Debated Order, Timing Of Events Amongst Christians (Limited Information, Conclusions Based On Pieces Of Puzzle.)**

- One Stage Or Two Stage? Private And Public? Before, During, Or After End-Time Period Of Judgment Known As The Tribulation Or Great Tribulation? Return To Heaven Or Descend To Earth?

**>>> L. View My Position As More A Pastor Than A Theology Professor: Positive Life Impact More Than Full Agreement On All The Details.**

- Mindset: What Is Plain In Scriptures Is Main (Most Important) In Scriptures.

**>>> M. Plain: Jesus Did Rise Again, He Is Coming Again, Christians Will Live Again.**

- If Our Chronology Or Understanding Of Event Details Is Wrong, We're Still OK.
- My Primary Audience Isn't Those Curious About Details. Primary Audience Is Those Worried About Their Future And Loved Ones.

**>>> N. Christians Who Have Already Died Will Return With Jesus At His Second Coming (Rapture.) Verse 14b-15.**

- Imagine What A Day That Will Be.
- The Death Of Christian Loved Ones Is A Temporary Condition.

**>>> O. Vs. 15. “...We Who Are Alive, Who Are Left Until The Coming Of The Lord, Will Not Precede Those Who Have Fallen Asleep.”**

- First Question: What Happens To Those Who Died Before Jesus Returned?
- Second Question: What Happens To Those Still Alive When Jesus Returns?

**>>> P. They Will Bypass Death, Be Transformed, And Meet Jesus And Resurrected Christians In The Air.**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.**

**For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

**>>> A. Emphasis Of Verse 16 Is On The Absolute Certainty Of The Resurrection Of Christians: It Will Be Done By God's Authority And Power. Vs. 16.**

- Overwhelming And Irresistible Summons. Cry Of Command, Powerful Voice Of An Archangel, Trumpet Of God. “Come Forth.”
- Same Powerful Voice: Let There Be Light...Darkness Dispelled. Let There Be Life...Death Will Be Dispelled.



- People Fearing Cremation Based On Inability Of Resurrection Of Body.
- Some Struggle With Believe In God Giving Life After Death: Proved By Resurrection Of Jesus, Current Existence Of Life From Nothing!

**>>> B. Vs. 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.**

- Emphasis Is On Unending Reunion With Jesus And Other Christians.
- Coming A Time When There Will Never Be Another Hurtful Separation.

**>>> C. Verse 17. “Caught Up” Latin Phrase Transliterated = Rapture. “Snatch Away....”**

**>>> D. The Rapture Will Mean An Eternal Togetherness Without Fear Of Separation From The Lord Or Each Other Ever Again.**

**>>> E. Vs. 18. Therefore Encourage One Another With These Words.**

- Doctrine Of The Second Coming And Rapture Should Bring Encouragement Instead Of Arguments.
- End-Time Events: Studious, Humble, Open, Pastoral.

**Life Point: Jesus' Death And Resurrection Means That Christians Should Be Hopeful About Death And Confident About Judgement Day.**

**>>> F. Next Paul Addresses Other Related Questions:**

- When Will Jesus Return?
- Will All Christians Be OK On The Day Of The Lord When The Judgement Of God Comes?

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2. Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware**

**that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.**

**>>> A. “Times And The Seasons..”** Refers To The End Time Events. Second Coming. Judgment. Kingdom Of God.

**>>> B. “No Need To Have Anything Written To You.”**

- No Additional Teaching, Correction, Explanation Is Needed In Regard To Specific Timing Of Jesus’ Return. “Day Of The Lord!”

**>>> C. Why Not? Vs. 2. “Fully Aware.... Come Like A Thief In The Night.”**

- No Need For Teaching Or Further Elaboration Because? Already Know It All? No.
- They Already Know That No One Knows When Jesus Is Coming. Not A Clue. Like A Thief - Any Time.

**>>> D. Disregard The Unending Claims To New Information, Signs, Supposed Countdowns Or Clear Indicators That Jesus Is Returning In Certain Time-Frame.**

- 2014: Blood Moon. John Hagee. Nothing Happened.
- 2017. Virgo Constellation. 12 Stars. Etc.
- Involve Sensationalizing, Edited Information, Always Retrofitting History.

**>>> E. Specifics And Dramatic Sells Books. Attract Interest. Draws Crowds.**

- Don't Really Find Those Specifics In The Bible If Interpreted Correctly.

**>>> F. "Day Of The Lord."**

- Day Of .... God. Christ. Redemption. Wrath. Judgment.
- Key Idea: God Acts In History As Never Before Both In Bringing Redemption And Judgment.

**1 Thessalonians 5:3. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.**

**>>> A. “Peace And Security.”**

- Life Will Be Normal-Typical. Unheralded Return.
- Like In The Days Of Noah Or Lot.

**Read Matthew 24:36-42.**

**>>> B. First: The Day Of The Lord Will Be Totally Unexpected.**

- A Suddenness To The Event That Comes Out Of Nowhere.

**>>> C. Second: The Day Of The Lord Will Be Radically Detrimental-Destructive.**

- Vs. 3. “Destruction Will Come Upon Them...” Not Annihilated, But Separated.

**2 Thessalonians 1:9. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,**

**>>> D. Third: The Day Of The Lord Will Be Inescapable.**

- Explain Pregnancy And Labor Illustration. Not About Unexpectedness. (Timing Well Known) Or Gradual Increase.
- The Illustration Is Of An Inevitable Outcome. “They Will Not Escape..”
- There Is No Safe Room To Flee To. It's Too Late.

**>>> E. Not Very Encouraging? Note The Use Of “They!”**

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**1 Thessalonians 5:4. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.**

**>>> A. “You Are Not In Darkness...” Not Likely Referring To Spiritual Insight.**

- Referring To Spiritual Standing. You Are Safe. You Belong To The God Who Is Light.
- Contrast Is Between The Unsaved Who Will Not Escape Judgment (Verse 3), I.e Unprepared, And The Saved Who Are Prepared (Not Surprised) And Will Escape Judgment In Verse 4.

**>>> B. “For That Day (Judgment) Will Not Surprise You Like A Thief.”**

- Already Stated Plainly: We Don't Know When, But All Christians Are Prepared!
- How? Through Their Trust And Commitment To Jesus Who Died For Them.

**Rainy Weather/Umbrella Ill.** Didn't Know When It Would Rain, But Prepared For It By Knowing That It Would Rain. Brought Umbrella. Not Surprised, Caught Off-Guard.

**1 Thessalonians 5:5. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.**

**>>> A. Explaining Why Things Will Be Different For Every One Of Them:**

- “You Are All Children Of The Light, Children Of The Day.”
- Every Christian Will Be Okay On Judgment Day....Because They Belong To The Light.
- New Nature. New Relationship. New Status. How? Verses 9-10.

**1 Thessalonians 5:6-8. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation**

**>>> A. Our Life Conduct Should Align With Our New Spiritual Condition.**



**>>> B. Vs. 6. “Let Us Not Sleep As Others Do.” Keep Awake, Be Sober...**

The World Is Spiritual And Moral Insensitive. Unaware That “Change Is A Coming.”

**>>> C. Vs. 7. “Sleep At Night And Get Drunk At Night.” Certain Activities Belong To Certain Time Frames, Conditions.**

- Using These To Illustrate The Immoral Activities That Characterize Those Still “In Spiritual Darkness, In Spiritual Night...”

**>>> D. Verse 8. What Should Characterize Christians Who Belong To God?**

- Faith: Trust In Jesus That Always Leads To Obedience.
- Love: For Each Other And For The World.
- Hope: Ultimate Salvation, Restoration, Eternity.

**>>> E. Why “Hope Of Salvation?”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.**

**>>> A. “God Has Not Destined Us For Wrath.” Us= Christians. Better Destiny. God Ordained Future.**

- We've Been Written Into God's Will. We Have An Inheritance From Him.

**>>> B. “To Obtain Salvation.” Three Tenses.**

- Salvation Is A Past Event (Justified-Forgiven) Present Event (Sanctification) And Future Event (Glorification.)

**>>> C. “Through Our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

- Not Through Anything We've Done. Merit. Any Deserving. Any Accomplishment.

**Spouse Of A Servicemember Illustration.** Your Relationship Grants You Privileges That Another Has Earned.

**>>> D. “Who Died For Us.” Substitute.**

**Life Point: Jesus’ Death And Resurrection Means That Christians Should Be Hopeful About Death And Confident About Judgement Day.**

**>>> E. Even Death Cannot Impact The Christian. “Whether Awake Or Asleep, We Will Live With Him.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.**

**>>> A. Encourage One Another.**

- Part 1 Of Encouraging Truth: (4:13-18) Christian Dead Are Not Hopeless, You Will See Them Again.
- Part 2 Of Encouraging Truth :(5:1-10) You Will Not Experience Any Of God’s Wrath. You Are Saved To The Fullest.