1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Slide 1: A little bit about End Times

1. We need to be careful not to drift into end times extremism.

2. The Bible is filled with prophecy - Over 30% of the Bible AND every chapter in 1 Thessalonians

3. The purpose of this passage is pastoral: Paul is helping them understand what has unsettled them.

Slide 2: A little bit about End Times

4. What We Believe: We believe Christ will return personally, literally, and soon, before the tribulation and before His millennial reign.

In fundamental beliefs we have UNITY - Jesus is coming again

In non-critical beliefs we have CHARITY - When and How

Slide 3: Sorrow and Hope (vs 13)

There are two types of people in the world, those who have hope and those who don't

Slide 4: The Hope in the Coming of Christ (vs14-18)

1. The Promise is Certain

"According to the Lord's own word…"

Slide 5: The Hope in the Coming of Christ (vs 14-18)

2. The People are Secure (15b)

There are two groups of people who will participate in the Rapture.
- - Believers who are alive
- - Believers who have died

Slide 6: The Hope in the Coming of Christ (vs 14-18)
3. The Plan is Revealed (vs 16-17)
a) A sudden descent
b) A Loud Command - John 5:25: "I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."
c) The voice of the archangel: Daniel 12 & Jude 9
d) The trumpet call of God: Zechariah 9:14

Slide 7: The Hope in the coming of Christ (vs 14-18)

3. The Plan is Revealed (vs 16-17)
e). A great resurrection: The Believers are raised with Christ

f). A glorious rapture: "In a twinkling of an eye" 1 Corinthians 15:52

Slide 8: The Hope in the coming of Christ (vs 14-18)

g). The Great Reunion (vs 17): "We will be caught up together with them." "We will be with the Lord forever."

The Problem of Sorrow is Solved because the Promise of the Rapture is Sure

Slide 9: Application

Paul give details of the Rapture to provide hope and then tells them "Therefore encourage each other with these words."

Hope is present even in grief, but people need to know where to find it.

Slide 10:

The purpose of prophecy is not speculation, but hope, comfort, and encouragement. Jesus is coming again, and that is a promise we can trust.