

Tentmaker 2026 – Week 2

What Happens When We Die? And When Will Jesus Return?

Key Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

Big Idea: Because Jesus is coming back, we grieve with hope and we live ready.

1. *When We Face Death, We Hold On to Hope (1 Thess. 4:13–18)*

“We do not want you to be uninformed... so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.” (v.13)

- Christians grieve—but not without hope.
- Jesus died and rose again.
- Those who belong to Jesus will be with Him forever.
- Our hope is not that we escape death; our hope is that Jesus defeated it.

2. *While We Wait, We Live Ready (1 Thess. 5:1–11)*

Paul gives the Thessalonians a lifestyle, not a timeline.

- Be ready—not predictive.
- Be ready—live in the light.
- Be ready—dress yourself in faith, love, and hope.
- The return of Jesus is not a puzzle to solve; it is a promise to prepare for.

Important Truths

- Anxiety is often the natural human response to looking ahead.
- The Thessalonians feared they had missed Jesus' return because they weren't good enough.
- Paul replaces fear with hope and confusion with confidence.
- The goal of biblical teaching about the future is encouragement, not fear.

Take Action

“Therefore encourage one another with these words.” (4:18)

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.” (5:11)

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. What fears or anxieties do people commonly have about the future?
2. How does Jesus' resurrection change the way Christians approach death and grief?
3. Why do you think people become fascinated with predicting the return of Christ?
4. What does it look like to 'live in the light' in everyday life?
5. Who in your life could use encouragement rooted in hope this week?