

The Second Coming

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Second Coming is a Certainty:

- 23 out of the 27 books in the New Testament state that Christ is coming.
- One out of every 30 verses speak directly that Jesus is coming or speaks about the end times surrounding his coming.
- There are 8 times more verses that reference a second coming than those associated with his first coming.

Note: At the end of every chapter in the book of 1 Thessalonians, Paul makes a reference to the future coming of Jesus Christ. Clearly, they expected Jesus to come in their lifetime. Why? Because **Paul had taught them things about the second coming when he was with them.**

In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul was writing about the Anti-Christ that was to come before the Day of the Lord and he says this in verse five *“Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?”* 2:5

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV People are reporting everywhere... *“how **you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**”*

Paul writes in **4:11-12 ESV** *“... aspire to live quietly, and to **mind your own affairs**, and to **work with your hands**, as we instructed you 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and **be dependent on no one.**”*

4:13-4:18 ESV *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. 16 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.***

1) What Happens when Christian Die?

v.13 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.

Parallel Passage - 1 Corinthians 15:52 NIV *Listen, **I tell you a mystery:** We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—**52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed.** 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”*

2) Our faith is based on the factual truth of the resurrection of Jesus.

v.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.*

This statement *“since we believe that **Jesus died and rose again**”* is the cornerstone foundation of Christianity.

They saw him, heard him, touched him, knew him! Hundreds saw him after his resurrection. They watched him ascend and heard the angel say in **Acts 1:11 ESV** “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

We can have confidence in our future hope, because of what God accomplished through Christ Jesus in our needy past.

Through His death, Jesus delivered us from the sting of death and the coming wrath of God!

John 14:18-19 ESV “I will not leave you as orphans; ***I will come to you.*** 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but ***you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*** WOW!

The Second Coming of Christ

v. 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. 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.***

Matthew 6:25,26 ESV Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

WHAT WE KNOW:

- Jesus is coming back for His Church.
- It will be a sudden and unexpected event.
- The Dead in Christ will not be left out.
- When He comes there will be a glorious reunion with Christ.
- The expectation of this event should motivate us to live godly while we wait.
- The future hope of his coming is a great source of encouragement.
- We will never be separated from the presence of Jesus again.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW:

- Will Jesus return before or after the Day of the Lord.
- When He comes, will the church go with Him to heaven or will He come to be with us on earth.
- Does Christ return happen in 2 stages: the rapture and then a second coming?