

**SERIES TITLE: ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN**

**PART FIVE: SOOTHES OUR GRIEF**

**TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

**INTRODUCTION.**

The church in Thessalonica was started by the Apostle Paul. Although many believed (Acts 17) Paul had to run for his life from an angry mob. Concerned about the young church, Paul sent Timothy to find out more. Timothy reported that the church was under a lot of pressure, but doing well. There were some moral problems, and confusion about the return of Christ. So Paul wrote this first letter of encouragement and instruction. Repeatedly he tells them how to live in light of the coming Christ.

**DISCUSSION.**

Who was the first family member you recall dying and how did it affect you?

**EXAMINATION.**

v.13 What problems were caused by the "ignorance" of the Thessalonians?

vv.14-15 Who are those God is bringing "with Jesus"?

Why would Paul use the phrase "fallen asleep"?

How would they be comforted by this information?

vv.16-18 Based only on the verses in this passage, what will the second coming of Christ be like?

**APPLICATION.**

- What encourages you in this passage?
- Is grief over the loss of a loved one normal? Why is it or is it not permissible for a Christian to grieve?
- How can we escape the grief of knowing there may be some loved ones who will not join us in heaven?
- How have you found comfort in the promise of reunion with Jesus and his people?

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?