

**WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**  
**The I Thessalonians Series #13**  
May 6, 2018

**TEXT:** I Thessalonians 4:13-18

**CONSIDER THIS:**

The death of a loved one makes us stop and think about life's most serious issues. The Thessalonian Christians were worried that their fellow believers who had died might somehow be excluded from the glorious events connected with the rapture of the church. In 4:14 Paul points to the death and resurrection of Jesus and the permanent and indissoluble connection we have with Jesus. Even death can't stop what is going to happen!

**GOD'S WORD TEACHES US...**

**I WE BELIEVE**

- A) "IF" vs. "SINCE." The literal translation of 4:14 is "If we believe," but the way Paul used *if* actually means *since*. "Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again..."
  
- B) The death and resurrection of Jesus was **for us**, and it supernaturally and eternally unites us to Christ. The foundation of the Bible's prophecies and promises about the future is the death and resurrection of Jesus.
  
- C) The testimony of Scripture to us:
  - 1. John 11:23-27
  - 2. John 14:19-20
  - 3. I Corinthians 6:14
  - 4. I Corinthians 15:12-26
  - 5. Colossians 1:18; 3:1-4
  - 6. Romans 8:37-38

Our future is secure and no power on earth,  
not even the power of death,  
can separate us from the love of God and all the  
blessings of being involved in Christ's return.

## II OUR FAITH IS NOT BLIND

A) When some in the Corinthian church began to waver in their belief in the resurrection, Paul reminded them that their faith was rooted in actual historical events (I Corinthians 15:3-8).

B) Please read Luke 23:44-49. History still speaks:

“Thallus, in his third book of histories, explains away the three hours of darkness as an eclipse of the sun, unreasonably as it seems to me. For the Hebrews celebrate the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day according to the moon, and the passion of our Savior falls on the day before the Passover, but an eclipse of the Sun takes place only when the moon comes under the sun...”

[Thallus was a non-Christian writing in A.D. 52, before the gospels were written, quoted here by a Christian, Julius Africanus in 220]

C) “Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome where all things hideous and shameful...become popular.”

[Tacitus (A.D. 56-120), Roman historian, Annals, written A.D. 115]

D) The impossibility of Jerusalem being the birthplace of Christianity

E) The investigation by Luke in Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-3

F) Monotheistic Jews equating Jesus with God, John 20:28

These, and more evidences, demonstrate that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were real historical events.  
I Thessalonians 4:14 = Not “if” Jesus rose.... “SINCE”

## III CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

The rapture of the church , the second coming of Jesus, the vindication of Jesus Christ as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, and the eternal life for those who by faith alone are in Jesus Christ, stand upon the unshakeable and unchangeable foundation of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ! Beloved, let us live each day according to the expectation that we will soon be in His presence!