

Study 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Objective:

1 Thessalonians is an encouragement to all believers to continue living lives worthy of God. It is a book that reminds the believer of the essentials of the Christian faith.

Opening Questions:

1. Have you ever thought about what heaven will be like? Describe.
2. What do you think it will be like to meet Jesus?

Body of this Week's Study:

We are studying Chapter 4:13-4:18 this week. Next week we'll be talking about Chapter 5:1-11, which is like the second part of Chapter 4. So think about this week as the first part of talking about Christ's return. We'll get into more next week. Paul spoke about Christ's second coming during his first visit to the Thessalonian church. Unfortunately it caused some confusion and they had questions. The first question they had concerned what would happen to the Christians that had already died when Christ came. The second question was about what would happen to Christians who were alive when Christ came back. Paul gently reminds them that we are different than those that do not place their hope in Jesus. We have hope in an eternity with Christ so death is not sad, because it is not the end.

Text Questions:

1. What was Paul's purpose in writing this section?
2. What do you think he accomplished with its writing?
3. What did he tell them to do with this information?

Application Questions:

1. What are your thoughts about Christ's second coming? (In response to their responses, perhaps ask "why?")
2. Why do you think people don't talk about it much?
3. How can you be prepared for Christ's return?

Creative Implementation for the Week/Spiritual Exercise:

It's often difficult to imagine what it will be like when Christ returns. Again, this week, let's return to scripture and check out what is said about Christ's return. Let's take a look at Mt 24:30-51. Write down your response to this passage. Take time to journal your thoughts to the questions below. Perhaps it would be good to discuss them with a friend as well.

What will it be like prior to Christ's return?

What should we do to prepare?

Does this excite me, or scare me? Why?

What does this tell us about the Father?

Memory Verses:

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." - 1 Thess. 4:16-17