

February 17, 2019

The Object of Hope 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Guest Speaker Lance Terrill

Vol. 9 Num. 7

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

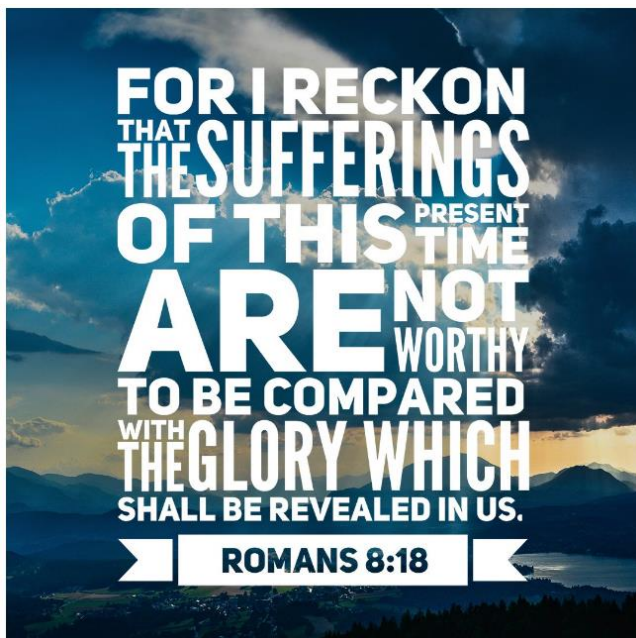
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we are going to take a break from the book of Nehemiah to discuss 1 Thessalonians 4. This encouraging passage gives hope for us even when life on earth ends. The apostle Paul suffered greatly for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, yet through the guidance of the Holy Spirit he realized that followers of Jesus Christ have an enduring and bright hope of a future beyond this life. Join us as we discover what the Bible says about how we can have a true hope even as we face the most difficult challenges in life.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NET

4 13 Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians. 15 For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the

Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly 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.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What does it mean to “be asleep” in this passage? Why are these words used here?

9. What evidence does the passage give to demonstrate that we will be raised from the dead some day?

10. What will happen the next time that Jesus Christ returns to this earth?

11. What is the importance of “always being with the Lord”? Why is this a valuable promise?

12. How would you explain the definition of “hope,” as it is used in the Bible?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Is it acceptable for followers of Jesus to grieve the loss of loved ones? How can we have hope when family members pass away?

14. How can we encourage those who are suffering, in view of the message today and this Bible passage?

15. How does the U.S. culture typically view death? How can your attitude towards suffering and death be a testimony for Jesus?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes