

July 25, 2021

Return of the King 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

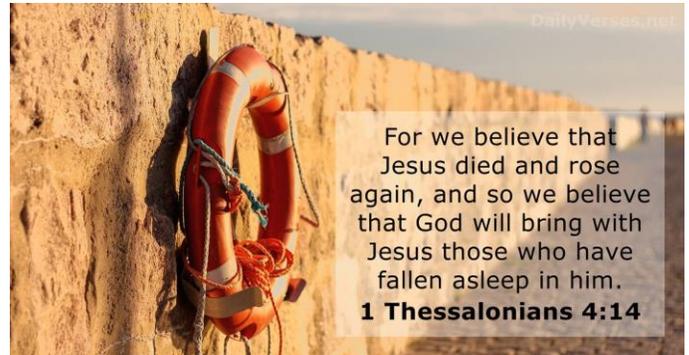
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

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.



In 1 Thessalonians 4 Paul seeks to comfort those that have lost people that are close to them. He reminds the believers that Christ has already overcome death, and that Christ will return. At the return those that have preceded us in death will rise first; they will not be left behind but will proceed us. The hope we have in Christ extends far beyond this life and this world. Our hope is in eternity and a life beyond this one. Jesus has shown us His power over life and death at His resurrection. Now believers must remember that we are not facing the end at death but the beginning. Join us this week as we talk about the awaited return of Christ and His triumphant victory over death.



Those Who Died in Christ

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain 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 shout, 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 and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort 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. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

14. How does hope help people deal with grief?

15. Does the promise of the resurrection always overcome grief? Explain your answer.

16. How should this passage impact our lives other than dealing with the death of loved ones?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

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

Sermon Notes