

Our Hope is in His Resurrection

October 16, 2011

Vol. 1 Num.23

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11

Week's Core Competency:

Eternity- I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

"Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way where I am going." (John 14:1-4)

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.

Introduction

An article in *Our Daily Bread* had the following:

The Shepherd's Home in Wisconsin has a problem with dirty windows. Although many of its residents are severely disabled, they love Jesus and understand that He has promised to return someday and give them new bodies. "Every day," said the superintendent, "some of them go to the windows and press their noses against the glass, looking for Him." The expectation of those precious people is genuine. – Dennis De Haan

Their irreversible mental and physical limitations fuel their longing for a day when they will be perfectly whole and free. Few of us fully grasp what they seem to already comprehend. As humans, we all are mentally, emotionally and physically handicapped to one extent or another. To the degree that we understand this, we too will experience deep longings for a time when we will be perfectly whole and free. These yearnings will only be fully laid to rest when we are in the presence of the Lord. In His presence, every human longing will be fulfilled. We will experience the reality that we are fully accepted, and completely and wholly loved. Our insecurities will melt away like some remote memory of a memory. Our hunger for truth, righteousness, and peace will be satisfied. Not only that, we will know the unspeakable joy of joining with all believers in offering God thanksgiving and praise that will be as essential, irreplaceable, and life-giving to us as breathing is to us now.

Therefore, we, as believers, have reason to eagerly look forward to being gathered to Christ. The Holy Spirit awakens hope in our hearts. It rests on two events, one past and one future -- the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20), and the reality that we will be joined to Him, either when we pass from this life or when He returns to this earth someday (1 Th. 4:13-18).

Are your windows clean? When we lose sight of the nearness of Christ's return, we begin to pad our lives with comfort and security, because our eyes are on a finish line that seems many years away. Although we might not admit it, our hope may be anchored in our comfortable Christian lives here on earth.

This Week

As you study this week, earnestly seek God. Allow the Spirit to cultivate a holy hope that brings joy to your present circumstances and a sense of urgency that transforms the way that you live. Stand at your spiritual window, expecting that this may be the day when you see the Lord face to face.

① EXAMINE His Word

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

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

14 Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

15 For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are still alive will be 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.

1 About the times and the seasons: Brothers, you do not need anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the

night.

3 When they say, "Peace and security," then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains come on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers, are not in the dark, for this day to overtake you like a thief.

5 For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness.

6 So then, we must not sleep, like the rest, but we must stay awake and be serious.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But since we belong to the day, we must be serious and put the armor of faith and love on our chests, and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. In this passage, what 2 questions (from the Thessalonians) does Paul seem to be answering?

a) From verse 4:13-18:

b) From verse 5:1-11:

2. Are Christians who have died alive and conscious in God's presence? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21, 23; Luke 23:43).

a) How do you reconcile this with the fact that in v 13 & 15 they are called "asleep"?

b) How should this affect a believer's view of death and grief over the loss of a loved one?

3. Beginning with his actual return in verse 16, list the event of Christ's return.

1. Christ will return with a loud command

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

4. How does the prospect of being with the Lord forever encourage or comfort you?

5. If you knew that Jesus was going to return 1 year from now, how would you live your life differently?

6. a) What does Paul mean by “the day of the Lord”? (Read Isaiah 13:6-12; Joel 3:14-16; 2 Peter 3:10-13)

- b) To what might “destruction” in 5:3 and “suffer wrath” in 5:9 refer?

- c) What do you think Paul means by putting on “Faith and love as a breastplate” and “the hope of salvation” as our helmet?

7. a) In light of the day of the Lord, how are we instructed to live? (5:6-8)

- b) How does your life show either your readiness or your lack of preparation for Christ’s return?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ