

**Grace Community Church
A Redeemed Future
May 3, 2026**

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13.** What questions can be reconstructed from Paul's instructions to know what he was addressing? Share how you have experienced or seen biblical future hope at work in the midst of grief. How might you respond to someone who is asking about the belief known as "soul sleep?"
2. **Read 4:14-15.** Look up the following verses and trace what seem to have been Paul's expectations concerning the timing of the return of the Lord: 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 2 Cor. 4:14; 5:1; Phil. 4:5. Share how your thoughts concerning the time of the Lord changed over the years?
3. **Read 4:16-18.** What about these verses excites you? What makes you anxious? What comforts you? Share and encourage one another with your words in light of Paul's instructions.
4. **Read 5:1-8.** Share if/when having awareness of Jesus' return has impacted your life and decisions. What stops you from living watchfully? How could you remind yourself to live for Jesus and not for the world's concerns?¹
5. **Read 5:9-11.** Notice how Paul did not just write to comfort them, but to tell them to encourage and build one another up with these words. Why is it important to remind each other of truths found in the Scriptures that may seem repetitious as we age? How can we keep an open heart and mind in receiving such encouragement and instruction? Share how you have benefited from constant reemphasis and instruction in worship gatherings, home group gatherings, bible studies, etc.?
6. What questions have you heard people ask about our future after we die? How might this passage help you to answer some of those questions?²

¹ Ligon Duncan, [*1 & 2 Thessalonians for You*](#), ed. Carl Laferton, God's Word for You (The Good Book Company, 2023), 116.

² Ligon Duncan, [*1 & 2 Thessalonians for You*](#), ed. Carl Laferton, God's Word for You (The Good Book Company, 2023), 110.

SERMON NOTES

Scripture References

- 2 Corinthians 5:6–8 – [6] So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, [7] for we walk by faith, not by sight. [8] Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
- Philippians 1:23 – [23] I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.
- Daniel 12:2 – [2] And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- 1 Corinthians 15:6 – [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.
- Matthew 24:36 – [36] But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9 – [9] They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
- Matthew 25:46 – [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Quotes & Notes

- When we read and hear the word *hope* today, think of a sure and certain expectation. Biblical hope is certain—it’s known for sure.
- How will God raise the bodies of people who were buried hundreds of years ago? What about the bodies of those Christians who were burned to death and those whose ashes were thrown to the wind, and Christians who perished at sea? The resurrection of the dead poses a great problem to the faith of many. Perhaps that is why Paul stressed that this revelation came from Jesus Christ Himself and that it is as certain of future fulfillment as Jesus’ resurrection is a fact of past history. The God who created the

universe out of nothing with a word is fully able to reassemble the decayed bodies of all His saints in a moment of time (cf. 1 Cor. 15:35–58).³

- Skip this one, but if you're interested in alarm clocks—here ya go! [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#).
- **Parousia** [παρουσία] is the word *coming* in verse 15 for the “coming of the Lord.” The Thessalonians would know this word implies the arrival of a coming king.
- **Harpazō** [ἄρπάζω] is the word translated *caught* in “caught up together” in verse 17. This means to be caught away—where we’d eventually get the word rapture in the Vulgate, which is the Latin translation of the Bible.
- **Apantēsis** [ἀπάντησις] is the word translated *meet* in “meet the Lord in the air” in verse 17. This word describes a custom of sending a delegation out to meet a dignitary to accompany them back into the city.
- Jesus is coming. RUE?

Sermon Outline

Main point of the text:

Paul wanted the Thessalonians to have hope while grieving by knowing that all who are in Christ will be united with him for all eternity (4:13-18). Paul wanted the Thessalonians to be prepared for Jesus’ return by living ready (5:1-11).

Main point of the sermon:

Jesus’ death and resurrection ensure our eternity with him, encouraging us to grieve with hope and to live ready for his return.

Title:

A Redeemed Future

- Grieve with hope (4:13-18)
 - Souls go to be with Him (14-15)

³ Thomas L. Constable, [“1 Thessalonians,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 704.

- Bodies will return to them (16)
- We will always be with the Lord (17-18)
- Live ready to go (5:1-11)
 - His return will be unexpected (1-2)
 - His return is unavoidable (3)
 - Be awake, alert, and dressed (4-8)
 - Encourage and build one another up (9-11)