

Those Who Have Fallen Asleep, Part 2

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Recap

1.) The Future of Christians Who Have Died Can Be Known

2.) The Future of Christians Who Have Died is Profitable

3.) The Future of Christians Who Have Died is Glorious

4.) The Future of Christians Who have Died Has Been Planned.

A.) The Source of the Plan

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord... (v15)

"having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets..." (Ephesians 2:20)

B.) The Statement of the Plan

i.) The Participants of the Plan

"...that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep." (v15)

ii.) The Particulars of the Plan

"For, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven..." (v16)

3 Particulars:

1.) The Lord Will Descend

"Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:43)

2.) The Dead in Christ Will Rise

"the dead in Christ shall rise first." (v16)

3.) Living Christians will be caught up

Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (v17)

4.) All Believers Will Meet the Lord

"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way..." (Exodus 13:21)

"Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud." (Exodus 16:10)

*"Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled **17** And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God," (Exodus 19:16-17)*

*"...the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, **14** so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God." (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)*

"And a voice came out of the cloud..." (Luke 9:35)

C.) The Summation of the Plan

"...And thus we shall always be with the Lord." (v17)

5.) The Future of Christians Who have Died is Comforting

"Therefore comfort one another with these words." (v18)