

Notes for 1 Thessalonians chapter 4:13-18

Reference	Doctrine	Implication	Cross References	Notes
1 Thess. 4:13	Comfort in Death	While we do grieve the earthly loss of our loved ones, as Christ-believers we have confidence in the life to come.	2 Samuel 12:19-23; 18:33; Acts 8:2; John 11:23-27; Ephesians 2:12	ἐλπις - usually translated “hope”; It carries the idea of anticipation or expectation
1 Thess. 4:14	Resurrection of Jesus	The Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the assurance of our own resurrection on the last day.	John 14:19; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; 2 Cor. 4:14;	πιστευω - (verb) “believe” or “trust” - Literally, “to place confidence in”
1 Thess. 4:14	Immortality of the Soul	The souls of Christ-believers who die “return to God” and will accompany Jesus at His return on the last day.	Ecclesiastes 12:7; Genesis 35:18; 1 Kings 17:21; Acts 7:59	The phrase <i>“in Jesus”</i> is important - it tells us that Paul is speaking only about those who believe in Christ in these verses
1 Thess. 4:15	Judgment Day	There is no difference between Christ-believers who are alive or dead at Jesus’ return on Judgment Day.	1 Cor. 15:51-53; Matt. 25:31-46	<i>“By the word of the Lord”</i> is unique here - could mean either 1) “from the words of Jesus” or 2) by “direct revelation”
1 Thess. 4:16	Events of Judgment Day	Everyone will know the day when Jesus returns. Trumpets will blare and angels will gather. There will be no silent rapture or 1000 year reign of Jesus or His saints.	Matt. 24:29-31; 1 Cor. 15:23-24; Revelation 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:10; [see also John 5:25-29]	<i>“The dead in Christ shall rise first”</i> has been used by millennialists two “prove” two resurrections (see Rev. 20:4-6); but “first” is linked to “precede” in v. 15 and “then” in v. 17. It is not connected to a second resurrection from the dead
1 Thess. 4:17	Glorified Bodies	The souls of Christ-believers will be united with the body in a glorified state, to be forever with Jesus.	John 17:24; Job 19:25-27 1 Cor. 15:42-54; Phil. 3:20-21 1 John 3:2	<i>“We shall always be with the Lord”</i> Eternity - Dan. 12:1-2; Matt. 25:46; 1 John 5:11-12
1 Thess. 4:18	Christian Comfort	What joy and consolation we have to offer through these words.	Hebrews 10:24-25; Luke 21:25-28	παρακαλεω (Paraclete) - to encourage and strengthen by consolation

Note: This study was prepared for the Bible Class at Zion Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, GA by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew