

The Coming of the Lord—1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

Open It

1. How can the death of a loved one change a person's life?
2. How do you react when you hear predictions about the end of the world?

1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11 (ESV)

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, 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.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

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

⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Explore It

3. How is a Christian's grief over the loss of a loved one different from a non-Christian's grief? (4:13–14)
4. What was the source of Paul's teaching about what happens to those who die? (4:15)
5. What sequence of events will signal the Lord's return? (4:16–17)

6. What effect did Paul believe this teaching about the Lord's return would have on his listeners? (4:18)
7. How will the Lord return? (5:1–3)
8. What contrast is there between believers and non-believers? (5:4–8)
9. What should we do to get ready for the Lord's return? (5:6–8)
10. For what reason can we be assured of our salvation? (5:9–10)
11. How should a believer use this information to help others? (5:11)

Get It

12. How should a Christian mourn the death of a fellow believer?
13. Why is the date and time of Christ's Second Coming of such interest to many people?
14. How can talking about God's promises for our future encourage us in our daily lives?

Apply It

15. What hope can you share with someone who is convinced that death is the end of our existence?