

I Thess. 4:13-18: Good Grief!

I. What do we know that changes the way believers look at _____?

A. Christ died and rose – that’s our assurance. I Cor. 15:17 – “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost..

B. Christ will Return – v. 15 “the coming of the Lord”

C. The dead in Christ will be _____ v. 16; I Cor. 15:20 – But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

I Cor. 15:51ff ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

D. We will rise to meet them – v. 17 – “caught up”

E. There will be an eternal _____ – v. 17

II. What does it mean “to depart”? Phil. 1:21 – 24 ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

A. It is a nautical term.

B. It is a military term.

C. It is a _____ term.

D. It is an agricultural term.

III. What blessings are waiting for the believer after this life?

A. _____: Revelation.14:13 – “They will rest from their labors...”

B. _____: Revelation.22:12 – “My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” Matt. 10:42 – “and if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

C. Rejoicing: Revelation.21:4 – “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

D. Residence: John 14:2-3 – “In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am you may be also!”

E. _____: Revelation 22:3,4 – “The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His Name will be on their foreheads.”

IV. So how should we live?

I Cor. 15:58: ⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. I Thess. 4:13 – when death comes, don’t grieve as those who have no hope.

