

## Small Group Discussion Guide – Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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- How many have attended funerals for believers? How about a funeral for an unbeliever? What have you noticed to be different about them?
- How could even a Christian be tempted to “grieve without hope”? What sort of “hope” does the world offer in the face of death?
- According to vs. 13, what is Paul’s main aim in this passage? What has caused him to address this issue in these verses?
- According to vs. 13-14, in what ways should the death, resurrection, and return of Christ strengthen our confidence in what God will do for us in the future? What three truths did Joshua give about the hope of Christ’s return?
- What is Paul doing in vs. 15-17? How does he describe what will happen to the two groups mentioned in vs. 15-17? What four truths did Joshua give about the order of events surrounding Christ’s return?
- In what ways can a good grasp of this doctrine be a means of pastoral encouragement for believers?
- How should the reinterpretation of death as “falling asleep” help us pastorally?
- How is it best we try to minimize controversies about “the end times” among believers? Why is eschatology an area where it would be “okay” for Christians to differ somewhat on some aspects of this doctrine? What does Paul say here is essential to our eschatology?
- How could this passage be used to encourage some in our church today? Who is there you know who needs comfort from “these words”?
- How should the prospect of meeting Jesus at His return affect the way that I live today?