

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply also

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and strengthen your hearts so that you will and holy in of our God when our comes with ones. It is Gods will that you should be sanctified that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make tion to lead a should mind business and your hands, you, Brothers do not want

informed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lords word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is Gods will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Objectives: We want to encourage one another with the truths of the second coming of Jesus. We want to live our lives in light of these truths by being alert and self-controlled. We want to interact with people who do not know Jesus in light of His second coming.

Launch:

What have you heard about the second coming of Christ so far?

Explore: 1 Thess. 4:13-4:18; 5:1-11

- What is the purpose of this passage? (*to encourage (4:18/5:11), but also to “supply what is lacking in their faith”. Specifically to correct some wrong beliefs regarding the second coming.*)
- How is this passage of scripture connected to his prayer in 3:11-13? (*it will strengthen them as well as prepare them for the 2nd coming of Christ*)
- What do these 2 passages have in common? (*command to encourage one another with these words, both talk about return of Christ, both contrast those who know Christ with those who do not, the death of Jesus, Christians being with Jesus*)
- What is the main event talked about? (*the day of the Lord*)
- It is clear that Paul taught them about the Day of the Lord. In order to understand this key event, we will cross reference several passages where it is used. (Read *Malachi 4:1-6; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Joel 2 (esp. 31-32); 2 Peter 3:1-13. At least read Malachi and 2 Peter passages*)
- What do you learn about the Day of the Lord? - *The 2 main things going on are God’s judgment and defeat of people that*

that oppose Him (do not follow Him) and His deliverance of His people. Both the Jews in the days of the prophets and the Thessalonian Christians were persecuted so the Day of the Lord was highly anticipated.

- How would this passage encourage and comfort the Thessalonians? In other words, what truths does Paul teach that would encourage them? (*Jesus is coming back (Return); Since Jesus rose from the dead, He will raise the Christian dead (Resurrection); all Christians will be with Jesus forever (Reunion)*)
- What are these truths based on? (*the death and resurrection of Christ- v. 14*)

Apply:

- In summary, what do we learn about the second coming of Christ from this passage? (*Jesus is coming back to reign as King. Since Jesus died and rose again, those who know Him will also be resurrected and be with Him forever. Those that do not will be judged. It will be amazing for those that know Him and awful for those who do not.*)
- What are things we do not know about the return of Christ? (when it will happen, what exactly will happen)
- What encourages you from this passage?
- Take some time to praise God for His death and resurrection. Praise God that someone took the time to share the good news with you and that you now are able to “live with Him”. Praise God that He will return for you and you will spend eternity with Him.

Homework: Homework #7