

Today's Scripture Text: **1 Thess 4:13-18**

## **Deeper Gospel Insight Imparts Hope To The Grieving**

### **1. Hope Comes From What Jesus Did** (vs 14)

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. *Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.* If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. **1Corinthians 15:17-19**

### **2. Hope Comes From What Jesus Said** (vs 15-17)

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. **Matthew 24:30-31**

The direct activity of God cannot be fully comprehended in human language. The Biblical writers have therefore to resort to analogy and metaphor, the language of symbol, in order to convey their message. **Jeffrey Weima**, 1-2 Thessalonians p. 325

We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **2Corinthians 5:8**

Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. **Jude 14-15**

*When Christ appears, he will not descend from the sky over Boston or London or New York or Hong Kong or any localized area. When he appears, the present dimension will be ripped away, and Christ will be manifest to all eyes throughout the earth....a new dimension will break into the old physical dimension, and the possibilities of new kinds of perception and of existence beyond present understanding will then be realized.*

*The resurrection of the dead should not be conceived as a physical rising upward from the grave but a transformation of an old-world body into a new creational body than can inhabit the dimension of the new world in Christ's and God's presence...The old fallen body is like a cocoon that will wither away, and God will cause a newly created body to emerge from it that is suited to live in a new dimension. **G.K. Beale 1-2**  
Thessalonians p. 138-139*

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, **those who have died** will be raised to live forever. And **we who are living** will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. **1 Corinthians 15:50-54**  
NLT