



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Coming of the Lord!

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Death neither annihilates an individual nor negates the Christian's hope in Christ Jesus. Lack of understanding had caused the Thessalonians to experience sorrow and disappointment. Apparently, some had lost hope for their loved ones who had died. They were burying their hopes in the grave, not understanding the reality of the resurrection of the dead. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to understand that death is not the end of the story. We have hope in Christ for a bodily resurrection. The fact that the Lord is coming gives the Christian hope and comfort in life and death. In death we have hope of resurrection at His coming.

Psalm 16 is a prophetic reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Moreover, because Jesus Christ lives those who die in Christ shall live also (John 14:19). Our hope for eternity rests on our faith, and the foundation of our faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *"If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14).

Jesus changed the nature of death for those with the Holy Ghost from that of terror to that of a quiet and gentle rest. Jesus tasted death for every man (Hebrews 2:9), and in doing so He took the sting out of death. He has changed it from death to sleep for the Holy Ghost believer. The Lord shall come with a shout, the "same Jesus" that had ascended into the heavens would return (Acts 1:11). Those that died being filled with the Holy Ghost shall be the first raised to immortal life. They shall rise and lead the procession as the living saints are "caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air."

The saints of the ages—both living and deceased—shall meet the Lord in the air. The focus is not so much where we are going, but rather the One with whom we will be staying. In this life, the Lord said He would be with us in our situations of sorrows and sickness. There we will be with Him and know nothing of the pains and problems that we face here. Because when Jesus came to our world, He experienced death, but in His world, death will be forbidden. In our world He knew tears and pain, but there God shall wipe away all our tears. All the joy and splendor of His glory will be ours forever. The joy will never end and the glory will never fade.

People say many things trying to comfort those who are grieving over the loss of a loved one or dear friend. We have all experienced not knowing what to say or do, feeling their pain, yet not knowing how to give them any relief. Poems and flowers will never drive the sorrow away. Nothing will ever comfort like knowing that one day Jesus will come for us and our loved ones who have gone on in death. We all shall be reunited with Him where we shall never again face separation.
How thankful ought we to be that we are not in the position of those who have no hope!

In the history of the human race mankind has had many ideas. In time, some of his ideas prove to be false, but others are proven as eternal truths. One of the oldest ideas man had held is the resurrection of the dead. Moreover, this idea has been the foundation of the believer's faith for his eternal future with Jesus Christ.

Job believed in the resurrection of the dead. *"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God"* (Job 19:26). Abraham also believed in the resurrection of the dead. *"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac . . . Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead"* (Hebrews 11:17, 19). David believed in the resurrection of the dead. *"Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope"* (Psalm 16:9). **Were these men wrong or deceived? No!** They had the same hope and faith that we can share today. **Jesus is coming again to receive us unto Himself, and we shall be forever with Him in eternity** (John 14:1-3).

Get in a hurry and make things right with God before the time is too late!



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