
SERMON OUTLINE

The event every Christian will experience

The rapture and the resurrection - Part 1

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 15

- I. Believers who understand Christ's return have comfort about death (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
 - A. God wants us to know what happens at death (4:13a).
 - B. We are not meant to grieve like unbelievers (4:13b).
 - Unbelievers have no hope about death.
 - Knowing about Christ's return enables us to live with confidence (1 Timothy 1:10).
- II. Believers who die will join Jesus when he returns for the living (1 Thessalonians 4:14).
 - A. Our eternal future depends on our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus (4:14a).
 - B. Believers who have died will join Jesus when he returns in the rapture (4:14b).
 - Believers who die are instantly alive with Christ in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- III. Believers living when Christ returns have no advantage over those who have died (1 Thessalonians 4:15).
 - A. Paul expected to experience Christ's return (4:15a).
 - The doctrine of *imminence* - Jesus Christ can return at any moment.
 - B. Their concern that believers who died would miss out on Christ's return was unwarranted because dead and living participate (4:15b).
 - The rapture is the "blessed hope" motivating us to live for Christ (Titus 2:11-14).