

Today's Message: All Caught Up In This!

Series: This Much I Know

Date: Sunday, November 24, 2024

Big Idea: The Unquestioned Return of Christ Can Produce Encouragement To Live For Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed 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 Lord's 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, and the dead 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. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NIV)

1. What we _____ about death can be used to encourage anyone who has dealt with death!

You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us *be awake* and *sober*. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us *be sober*, *putting on faith and love* as a breastplate, and *the hope of salvation as a helmet*. For God *did not appoint us to suffer wrath* but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore **encourage** one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (1 Thess 5:5–11)

2. We can _____ the exhortation to live differently because death is very different for s.

So then, brothers and sisters, *stand firm* and *hold fast* to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal **encouragement** and good hope, **encourage** your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17

- **Keep** our senses about us.
- **Be** sober:
 - Avoid toxic influences.
 - Live under control and not out of control.
- **Protect** your heart.
- **Protect** your head.
- **Wrath** is off the table.
- **Stand firm**.
 - Waiting is not fretting. Standing, persevering, persisting. To be firmly committed in conviction and belief.
- **Hold fast**.
 - Waiting is not forgetting. It is seizing, arresting, the teachings passed onto us.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. (2 Thessalonians 3:16, 18)