

GRIEF AND HOPE

1 Thes.4:13-18

April 20th to 21st 2019

INTRODUCTION: CHRISTIANS GRIEVE. Grief is the feeling of sorrow caused by loss. Christians are not exempt from grief. Christians grieve. Yet, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We have hope in the midst of our grief. It is this hope that enables the believer to not only endure grief, get through grief, and even grow through grief. Grief, *LUPEO/LUPA* (GK), 'to make sorrowful, to affect with sadness, to throw into sorrow'. Matt.17:23; 26:37; John 16:6; 2Cor.6:10; 1 Pet.1:6; Phil.2:27.

I) WHAT IS DEATH?

A) Death is illustrated by _____, vs. 13,14,15 = v.16. This is not the same as the doctrine of "soul sleep" promoted by either the Jehovah's Witness or Seventh Day Adventism. The Bible uses sleep as a common analogy of death – Matt.27:52; Acts 7:60; 13:36; 1 Cor.11:30; 1 Cor.15:6,18, 20, 51; 2 Pet.3:4;

*John 11:11-14. WHY IS DEATH PICTURED AS SLEEP?

1. Death, like sleep, is another state of _____. _____ - 2 Cor.5:8; Phil. 1:21-24; Rev.6:9-11; Luke 16:19-31. The dead are very conscious of what they are experiencing.
2. Death, like sleep, is a state of _____ for the believer. Rev.14:13; Job 3:17; Contrast Isaiah 57:1,2 with vs.20,21.
3. Death, like sleep, is NOT _____. You wake up! John 11:11-14; Dan. 12:1-3. Death will one day be swallowed up in immortality, 1 Cor.15:51-57. At some point, the person continues to exist, but death does not! Rev.21:4.

B) Death is _____.

1. Of our spirit from our body, 2 Cor.5:8; James 2:26.
2. Spiritual death is separation from God, Gen.2:17; Ezk.18:20; Rom.6:23.
3. Death separates us from loved ones who have died, thus producing grief.

II) WHAT IS HOPE? v.13.

A) *ELPIS* (GK), 'a strong, confident, favorable, expectation'. 1 Thes.1:3; 2 Thes.2:16; Rom.5:1-5; 15:4,13; 1 Cor. 15:19; Prov.14:32.

B) Death is _____ for the believer. Ps.116:15; Phil.1:21,23; Num.23:10; Rev.14:13.

III) WHAT IS OUR HOPE? THE _____ OF JESUS

IS OUR HOPE! 4: 15; Titus 2:13. *PAROUSIA*, (GK), 'coming, to be with'. *PARA*, 'alongside, with', and *OUSIA*, 'to be'. Used of the return of the Lord Jesus – 1 Thes.2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thes.2:1,8; 1 Cor.15:23,24; James 5:7,8; 1 Pet.1:15; 2 Pet.3:4,12; 1 John 2:28; Matt.24:3, 27, 37,39. *PAROUSIA* emphasizes that the purpose and effect of His coming is that He will be with us! ***THREE THINGS ARE PICTURED AS OCCURRING AT JESUS'**

COMING:

A) AT JESUS' COMING, THERE WILL BE A _____ = _____. 4:15; *John 11:23-26,43; John 6:39; 40; 44; 54; John 5:21-29; 1 Cor.6:14; Rom.8:11.

****JESUS WILL BRING THOSE BELIEVERS WHO ALREADY DIED WITH HIM –** Jude 14; 2 Thes.1:10; Rev.19:11-21.

(OVER)

B) AT JESUS' COMING, THERE WILL BE A _____ OF AN _____ = _____ (Latin).

1. *HARPADZO*, (GK), 'to grab by force and pull towards'. Used in John 6:15; Matt.13:19; 23:13; 11:13; Acts 23:10; Rev.12:5; Acts 8:39; 2 Cor.12:2,3; Jude 23.
2. Living believers will be 'caught up' to be gathered together with the Lord and the resurrected dead, 4:16,17. "WITH"-4:14,17. *1Thes.2:1, 19,20; Matt.24:29-31; John 14:1-6; 12:26; 17:24; 2 Cor.5:6-8; 2 Thes.1:7.
3. Encourage/Comfort one another with these truths, 4:17 & 5:10,11.

C) AT JESUS' COMING, THERE WILL BE THE _____ OF GOD = _____ . 1 Cor.15:51-58,44,48; Isaiah 25:8; 2 Cor.5:1-5; Phil.3:20,21; 2 Tim.1:10.

IV) CLOSING: This hope is **CONDITIONAL**. We must **BELIEVE** that Jesus died and rose again, 4:14. See also Romans 10:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:2; 1 Pet. 1:3,4. If we have not believed and followed Jesus, at His coming there will not be hope, but dread. If we belong to Jesus now, we will be with Him forever after He comes. If not, 2 Thes. 1:6-9, especially vs 8 & 9, will be our fate.

KEY: *A) Death is illustrated by SLEEP, vs. 13,14,15 = v.16.

*1. Death, like sleep, is another state of CONTINUOUS CONSCIOUS BEING – 2 Cor.5:8

*2. Death, like sleep, is a state of REST for the believer.

*3. Death, like sleep, is NOT PERMANENT.

*B) Death is SEPERATION.

*B) Death is PRECIOUS for the believer.

*III) WHAT IS OUR HOPE? THE COMING AGAIN OF JESUS IS OUR HOPE!

*A) AT JESUS' COMING, THERE WILL BE A SHOUT = RESURRECTION.

*B) AT JESUS' COMING THERE WILL BE A VOICE OF AN ARCHANGEL = RAPTURE (Latin).

*C) AT JESUS' COMING THERE WILL BE THE TRUMP OF GOD = GLORIFIED BODIES.