



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The End!? November 17-19, 2018

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1. In keeping with the sermon's introduction, tell of a time when you were surprised by a movie's ending.
2. Why were the Christians in Thessalonica so troubled by the deaths of their fellow believers? What was the cause of their concerns?
3. Agree or disagree and why? Christians don't grieve like other people.
4. People of all religions may refer to the "sleep of death." For Christians this is not simply a nice way to talk about an unpleasant subject. Explain.
5. What makes Christian "hope" different than "wishful thinking"?
6. Agree or disagree and why? For the believer, death is no longer a punishment.
7. When a believer dies, his body sleeps. What happens to his soul? (cf. Luke 23:43).
8. This Sunday of the church year is called "Saints Triumphant." How does someone become a "saint"? How do the saints become "triumphant"?
9. We speak of the "end of the world" or the "end of this present age." What ends? What doesn't?
10. Paul urges us to "encourage each other" with the words of our text. How will you use the truths we discussed to encourage the family of a believer who has died?