

what to do WHILE WE WAIT

Part 7 – When Jesus Comes Back For Us
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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INTRODUCTION

Hosea 6:3 As surely as the sun rises, He (the Messiah) will appear; He will come to us...like the spring rains that water the earth.

I. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRIST FOLLOWER **DIES**?

A. *1 Thessalonians 4:13 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. (NIV)*

B. *1 Thessalonians 4:14 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. (NIV)*

II. WHEN CHRIST COMES BACK FOR BELIEVERS THERE IS A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE.

A. There will be a **re-entry** of Christ to the earth.

1. *1 Thessalonians 4:16 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.*

2. *Acts 1:9-11 After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood*

beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee, they said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

The key phrase is “He will return just like He left.”

3. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 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.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep but we will all be changed — ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last **trumpet**. *For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

B. There will be the **resurrection** of believers who have died.

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 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.
2. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 It is the same way for the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies, which die and decay, will be different when they are resurrected, for they will **never** die. ⁴³ Our bodies now disappoint us, but when they are raised, they will be full of glory. They are weak now, but when they are raised, they will be full of power. ⁴⁴ They are natural human bodies now, but when they are raised, they will be spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, so also there are spiritual bodies.” (NLT)
3. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. [The body] that is sown is perishable and decays, but [the body] that is resurrected is imperishable (immune to decay, immortal). ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor and humiliation it is raised in honor and glory. It is sown in infirmity and weakness; it is resurrected in strength and endued with power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural (physical) body; it is raised a supernatural (a spiritual) body. [As surely as] there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.” (AMP)

C. There will be a **rapture** of all those Christians who are still alive.

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 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.

Matthew 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?” ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, “I never knew you...”

2. *Matthew 24:40-41 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.*
3. *1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

D. Finally, there will be a great **reunion**.

1 Thessalonians. 4:17 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.

Action Steps

1. When this service ends I will go to the Next Step Center and talk with a minister about how I can become a Christ follower.
2. This week in a ‘Quiet Time’, I will review the notes from Pastor Mark’s message today to better cement in my heart the understanding of what is coming when Jesus returns for believers.
3. This week I will thank the Lord for the protection and blessing of my loved ones who are already with Him in heaven and be comforted with that truth.

CDs and DVDs of today’s sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water’s Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
