



LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

“Pleasing God with Our Readiness for the Future” (Part 1)

I THESSALONIANS 4:13-17

“Holiness and hope were meant to be themes of encouragement for a suffering community. Paul wanted to lift the believers’ eyes to the return of the King but also encourage them to persevere in the faith while living in a pagan city where they were tempted to revert to their former practices.”



Patrick Schreiner
NIV Study Bible

- a. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
- b. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)
- c. On Future Events (4:13-18)**
- d. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
- e. On Recognizing Leaders (5:12-13)
- f. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
- g. On Nonretaliation (5:15)

Walking to Please God (I Thess 4:1-2)

- h. On Rejoicing (5:16)
- i. On Regular Prayer (5:17)
- j. On Gratitude (5:18)
- k. On Testing the Spirits (5:19-21)
- l. On Sanctification (5:22-28)

Walking to Please God (I Thess 4:1-2)

KEY POINT:

**We please God by being ready for
what is to come.**

- Maybe Paul hadn't addressed it.
- Maybe they needed a refresher.
- Maybe they were experiencing death or martyrdom.
- Maybe false teachers were spreading lies.
- Maybe the grief was so intense.
- Maybe they didn't want those who died to miss out on Christ's return.

Why Were They Asking About the Resurrection?

I. Previewing What Is to Come (vs. 13-14)

A. Based on God's Truth (vs. 13)

*Yes, we are of good courage,
and we would rather be away from the body and
at home with the Lord.*

II Corinthians 5:8

“The more a Christian knows of his religion, the better for his peace, and for his happiness.”



Charles Spurgeon
“Death, A Sleep”

1. The view of Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventist
2. The idea that after a person dies, that person's soul goes nowhere.
3. The Bible uses "sleep" to refer to someone's death (Matt 27:52; Mark 5:39; John 11:11-13; Acts 7:55-60; 13:36).
4. A reference to the body in the earth until it is resurrected (I Cor 15:35-37).

What About Soul Sleep?

*as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, yet possessing everything.*

II Corinthians 6:10

“In the face of death the pagan world stood in despair. They met it with grim designation and bleak hopelessness. Aeschylus wrote, ‘Once a man dies there is no resurrection.’

Theocritus wrote, ‘There is hope for those who are alive, but those who have died are without hope.’ ...



William Barclay
Commentary on Thessalonians

... Catullus wrote,
‘When once our brief light
sets, there is one perpetual
night through which we
must sleep.’
On their tombstones grim
epitaphs were carved.
‘I was not; I became;
I am not; I care not.’”



William Barclay
Commentary on Thessalonians

I. Previewing What Is to Come (vs. 13-14)

A. Based on God's Truth (vs. 13)

B. Based on the Son's Death and Resurrection (vs. 14)

*17 And if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in
Christ have perished.*

I Corinthians 15:17-18

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

*³ For I delivered to you as of first importance
what I also received: that Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures,
⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the
third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

I Corinthians 15:3-4

*¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;*

*¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;*

*¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
For he cannot deny himself.*

II Timothy 2:11-13

I. Previewing What Is to Come (vs. 13-14)

A. Based on God's Truth (vs. 13)

B. Based on the Son's Death and Resurrection (vs. 14)

II. Promises of What Comes from It (vs. 15-17)

A. Promised Resurrection (vs. 15)

*⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering,
and the time of my departure has come.*

*⁷ I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will
award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to
all who have loved his appearing.*

II Timothy 4:6-8

I. Previewing What Is to Come (vs. 13-14)

A. Based on God's Truth (vs. 13)

B. Based on the Son's Death and Resurrection (vs. 14)

II. Promises of What Comes from It (vs. 15-17)

A. Promised Resurrection (vs. 15)

B. Promised Reunion (vs. 16-17)

1. The Lord comes down from heaven (vs. 16).
2. Shout from an archangel (vs. 16)
3. Trumpet blast (vs. 16)
4. Resurrection of the dead (vs. 16)
5. Resurrection of the living (vs. 17)
6. Meeting in the air (vs. 17)
7. Eternal state (vs. 17)

Events of vs. 16-17

“One moment our eyes see Him,
and we rejoice with unspeakable
joy, but in a little while our Beloved
withdraws Himself from us. Oh,
how sweet to think of the time
when we will not behold Him at a
distance but see him face to face!
He will no longer be as a wayfaring
man tarrying but for a night, but He
will eternally enfold us in the
bosom of His glory!

In heaven there will be no
interruptions from care or sin;
no weeping will dim our eyes. ...



Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening

... No earthly business will
distract our happy thoughts.
We will have nothing to hinder
us from gazing forever on
the Sun of Righteousness
with unwearied eyes.

Oh, if it is so sweet to see Him
now and then, how sweet to gaze
on that blessed face forever and
never have a cloud rolling between
and never have to turn one's eyes
away to look on a world of
weariness and woe! Blest day,
when will you dawn?"



Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening

KEY POINT:

**We please God by being ready for
what is to come.**

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
all to leave and follow Thee;

Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.

Perish every fond ambition,
all I've sought or hoped or known;

Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heav'n are still mine own.

“Jesus I My Cross Have Taken”

Let the world despise and leave me,
they have left my Savior, too;

Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.

And while Thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom,
love and might,

Foes may hate and friends disown me,
show Thy face and all is bright.

“Jesus I My Cross Have Taken”

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!
Come, disaster, scorn and pain!

In Thy service pain is pleasure; with Thy favor, loss is gain.

I have called Thee, “Abba, Father”;
I have set my heart on Thee:

Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,
all must work for good to me.

“Jesus I My Cross Have Taken”

Man may trouble and distress me,
'twill but drive me to Thy breast;

Life with trials hard may press me;
heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.

Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me;

Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
were that joy unmixed with Thee.

“Jesus I My Cross Have Taken”