

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Hope Until the End!

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (4:13; 5:11)*

**An End Times Theology is one of hope and encouragement not fear and despair.**

**Hope for Christians that ran out of time: Shhh, they're only sleeping. (4:13-18)**

*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. (v 13)*

- **They will be reunited**

*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. <sup>15</sup>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. (vv 14-15)*

*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. <sup>17</sup>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. (vv 16-17)*

- **There will be sounding**

- **There will be snatching**

*"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)*

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am (John 14:1-3)*

*Therefore encourage one another with these words. (v 18)*

**Encouragement for Christians who still have time: Wake up! (5:1-11)**

- **Wake up to the difference between believers and unbelievers in that Day.**

*Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup>for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. (vv 1-4)*

- **Wake up today to the light of day.**

*You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness (v 5)*

- **Wake up and stay sober.**

*So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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 (vv 6-8)*

- **Wake up, you are saved, not judged.**

*For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (vv 9-11)*

**Application:**

- **Being ready to go to heaven**
- **Being ready to meet your maker**