



## What Are We Waiting For? – 1 Thessalonians Resurrection, Rapture and Revelation

**Date:** Sunday 9th October

**Speaker:** Aaron Smith (City Centre Site), Phil Grasham (South Site)

**Key Verses:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

### **Talk Summary:**

This passage is focused all around hope and the promise of what is to come. Namely what we are hoping for because of what Jesus did for each of us on the cross and resurrection.

3 things we unpacked from the passage, the hope we can trust, the hope we receive, the hope we should share:

#### **1. The hope we can trust (v13-14)**

Paul starts by stating to the believers he is writing to not be misinformed, which is a good word for all of us to hear today too, and not just about this topic. Don't be misinformed about those who sleep in death, don't grieve like the rest of mankind does, who have no hope. He then reassures them with the gospel truth and reminds them that we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe because of this that God will bring with Jesus all those who are dead with him when he returns.

Hope, the joyful and confident expectation of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The hope in Jesus is for all people. It's for you today. If you don't know Jesus, he died on the cross to defeat sin and was raised from the dead to defeat death, so that when we choose to follow him we too can have the hope that our sin is forgiven on the cross and one day we will be with him in heaven because he has defeated the sting of death for each of us. We can say as is written in 1 Corinthians 15:55 'O Death where is your victory, O death where is your sting?'

## 2. The hope we will receive (v15-17)

Receiving comes in all sorts of different ways right? Sometimes we receive something which is great, a bunch of flowers, a card, cup of tea in the morning or a sleep in...stuff most of us would be happy to have... There are other kinds of stuff that isn't great to receive. Bad news, a bill through the post or a questionable cookie made by your kids. Sometimes however we receive something and then look at what others have and are disappointed with what we have. As we read verses 15-17 in the passage, we see Paul unpacking some of the questions the Thessalonians were asking or wrestling with.

This whole part of the passage is to be a comfort for those who are in Christ. To understand that there is no advantage of being alive or dead when Jesus returns, that we are not in competition, that this hope we receive is the same for each of us that are followers of Jesus. His words are to bring us comfort. That we can be confident in God's future purposes for the followers of Jesus who have died. There will be grief, but there is also hope. A hope that one-day God will put everything right, no sickness, no sadness, no sin, no death. That those who have died and those that are alive will be reunited with new bodies to serve God joyfully in the new creation.

## 3. The hope we should share (v18)

Good news is something that all people love hearing about. We love celebrating when we hear some good news or a story which will bring joy, comfort or hope right?

We need to recognise what the future past this life is going to look like and be reminded of, because it's good news and so when we hear good news we want to pass it on, we should want to talk about it right? It can be tricky to share this with our friends, neighbours and family. We need to be bold in our witness to both our brothers and sisters in Jesus but also to our friends, family, colleagues etc about the hope we have.

It's often in the most difficult of times that we have the opportunity to share with people why we have the hope we live by. What is it that brings us comfort, what is that helps us through some of the most challenging times? What is it that helps us when we are face with death? It's the hope of Christ in us. The hope of glory.

### Worship

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

### Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What do we think about Paul's teaching on Resurrection, Rapture and Revelation?
- How does this passage make you feel? Does it reassure you? Why, why not?
- How can we share the hope that we receive by believing in Jesus with others?
- Which of these 3 areas (trust, receive, share) could we most grow in?
- How can we help others who don't yet have this hope?

**Witness** - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
  - Upcoming Events (go to [bvc.so/whats-on](http://bvc.so/whats-on) for details)
    - Worship Circle - 13.10.22
    - Corporate Prayer Meeting - 23.10.22
    - Rooted - 24.10.22