

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV **Resurrection and Rapture**

Saints who have died and Saints who remain

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Rapture

15 For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Facts Revealed:

Saints who have died and Saints who remain [1 Thessalonians 4:13-14]

- ✚ Whenever death comes to a Saint of God, there is a natural question concerning the spiritual fate of the departed whether it happens as martyrdom during great persecution, as the Church was facing at the time of this epistle when many were being killed, or at the time of natural death.
- ✧ Paul addressed the question with specific information meant to comfort the survivors.
- ✧ When those of the world die without Christ, they die without hope, with a fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries of God. [Hebrews 10:27]
- ✧ Paul then uses the resurrection of Jesus as the basis of hope for the Saints.
- ✧ At the same time Paul declares that when Jesus comes again He will bring the Saints from heaven with Him. [1 Thessalonians 3:13, 4:14, Zechariah 14:5, Revelation 19:11-14]
- ✧ The Saints in Heaven have bodies and are clothed in white linen. [Revelation 6:11, 19:14]
- ✧ This confirms the statement of Paul who said that when a Saint dies he goes in a spiritual body immediately to the presence of Jesus. [2 Corinthians 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:44]
- ✧ Jesus related the same concept in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, they had bodies that could be recognized, tormented and comforted. [Luke 16:19-26]

Rapture [1 Thessalonians 4:15-18]

- ✚ Paul relates the relationship between the Saints who have departed this mortal life and the Saints who remain at the time of the coming of the Lord.
- ✧ "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God."
- ✧ At the time of death, a Saint is instantly transported to the presence of Jesus, therefore it is impossible for the living Saint to arrive in the presence of Jesus ahead of one who has died.
- ✧ At the time of the Lord's coming, the living will be changed to their spiritual bodies and be caught up following those who died at the time, to meet the Lord in the air.
- ✧ The ones who died at that moment were caught up while the living were being changed.
- ✧ The separation is a brief moment so Paul words it this way, "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."
- ✧ From that time on we will always be with the Lord.
- ✧ This information should comfort the living at the time of the death of a Saint.