

HOW CAN WE EXCEL IN GENUINE HOPE?
UNDERSTANDING OUR WONDERFUL FUTURE IN CHRIST
(Christ in us, the hope of glory)
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I. DON'T BE IGNORANT ABOUT ETERNAL REALITIES FOR THOSE IN CHRIST (13-17)

A. We are not to be ignorant concerning believers that have died in Christ, so that we would not grieve like those who do not know Christ (13)

1. Ignorance of biblical truth relates directly to worldly grief
2. Ignorance of biblical truth reinforces worldly hopelessness

B. We are not to forget the basis of our hope: Christ and His completed redemptive work assures our resurrection (14)

C. Instead, understand THE INCREDIBLE FUTURE REALITY CONCERNING HIS RETURN FOR US, our glorification, and glorious heavenly reunion (15-17)

1. This truth is from His authoritative Word (15a)
2. The order of events in relation to His coming (15b)
3. Specific details **concerning His glorious return for us** (16-17)
 - (a) He will gloriously descend from heaven with the souls of who have died in Christ (16a)
 - (b) Those bodies of those who have already died will rise first (16b)
 - (c) Then we who are alive and were left behind will be caught up in the air to Him (17a)
 - (d) We will be reunited with loved ones in Christ in the air (17b)
 - (e) We thus will be with Jesus forever (17b)

II. LET HIS TRUTH COMFORT YOU AND THEN GO COMFORT OTHERS (18)