

Nov. 16, 2014
PM. OUTLINE

"COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS"

(1 Thess. 4:18)

INTRODUCTION - something in these words should give us "comfort."

"Comfort" - to call to one's side; to soothe; giving aid; a helper; to ease grief or distress.

1. VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY OF THE "WORDS"

(v13) "would not have your ignorant, brethren" - knowledge gives us comfort, confidence.

"concerning them which are asleep" - a figure of speech, a metaphor, for those who have died.

"sorrow not ... " - yes, we sorrow, rightly so; however, we have hope.

(v14) "for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again" - and we do! The evidence is abundant.

"even so them also which sleep in Jesus" - that's brethren; the letter is addressed to the congregation.

"will God bring with him" - the general resurrection of all the dead is not the context, resurrection of the unbelievers is not considered; the lesson is giving hope to the Christians and their departed brethren.

(v15) "For this we say by the word of the Lord ... " - it's an inspired message.

"that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord ... " - alive at the 2nd coming.

"shall not precede them which are asleep" - no advantage or disadvantage to being alive or dead at the Lord's return: (1 Cor. 15:51) "... We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed"

(v16) "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven" - a sudden manifestation.

"with a shout" - (John 11:43) "Jesus cried with a loud voice" to resurrect Lazarus.

"with the voice of the archangel" - angels will have a part in the 2nd coming.

"and with the trump of God" - some kind of penetrating sound accompanies His coming.

(v17) "in the clouds" - (Matt. 26:64; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 1:7)

(v17) "Then we which are alive and remain" - Christians who are alive at the 2nd coming.

"shall be caught up together with them" - Christians are "taken up;" not a "rapture."

We'll certainly be "rapturous," meaning, overwhelmed with happiness.

"to meet the Lord in the air" - not to dwell "in the air," but to accompany Him to heaven.

No hovering over the earth while the earth experiences a seven year tribulation. (2 Peter 3:10)

(v18) "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" - that's the intent of the message.

2. ADDED COMFORT FROM APOSTLE PAUL IN (1 Cor. 15)

(v13) "but if there be no resurrection of the dead ... " - here are the consequences or conclusions:

(v13) "... then Christ is not risen" (and v16) - Jesus' resurrection would be a hoax, deception.

(v14) "and if Christ be not risen, then our preaching is vain" - why are you here listening to me?

"and your faith is also vain" - we are believing a deceptive message. (again in v17)

(v15) "and we are found false witnesses ... " - all of the abundant witnesses are "false," deceptive.

(v17) "and if Christ be not raised ... ye are yet in your sins" - (Romans 4:24-25)

(v18) "then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" - they just lived and died.

(v19) "if in this life only we have hope in Christ ... most pitiable" - what happens here stays here.

CLOSE