



Topeka Bible Church
Waiting for Something to Happen: The Thessalonian Letters
#8: While Waiting ... Plan for a Reunion Party in the Sky!
Community Group Study Questions
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and selected passages

1. What do you think of when you hear the term "rapture?" Do you believe that this event will happen sometime soon? Do you believe that this event will happen at all? Why or why not?

2. What issue did the authors address in *1 Thessalonians 4:13*? Who are those who have "fallen asleep" (*Acts 7:60; 1 Corinthians 11:30*)? What were the Thessalonians concerned had happened to these people (cf. *Romans 14:7-9*)?

3. What is the connection between Christ's death and resurrection and the resurrection of those who have already died (*1 Thessalonians 4:14; 1 Corinthians 15:18-20*)? What would happen if Christ was never raised from the dead?

4. Many people do not have everlasting hope, but Christians do (*Ephesians 2:12-13*). Who has made this hope possible (*1 Thessalonians 4:14; Romans 14:9; 1 Corinthians 6:14*)?

5. Can you make sense of the events in *1 Thessalonians 4:15-17* (cf. *Matthew 24:30-31*)? Explain the key events that will take place. Why will those who are "asleep" go before those who are still alive (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*)?

6. What will happen to people who are still living when Jesus returns to earth (*1 Thessalonians 4:17*; cf. *1 Corinthians 15:51-52*; *Philippians 3:20-21*; *Revelation 1:7*)? Who do you think that you will see when this event happens? Are you excited for this event to happen?

7. Regardless of what your view is of the events mentioned in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*, these verse do communicate a message of great hope. Do you know someone who needs to hear this message of hope today (*1 Thessalonians 4:18*)?

Memory Verse:

**"Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."
(1 Thessalonians 4:17, NASB)**