

**Sermon Handout**  
The Glorious Reunion  
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

- I.** St. Paul's pastoral ministry to the Thessalonians v. 13a
- a. Corrective teaching to counter ignorance  
Rom 1:13; 11:25; I Cor 10:1; 12:1; II Cor 1:8  
*cf.* I Cor 11:3; Col 2:1
  - b. Specific questions brought to Paul  
Through Timothy – 3:6, 10, 13  
*cf.* I Cor 1:11; 16:17
  - c. Platitudes & lofty proclamations are insufficient to our purpose  
The shepherd is to feed the flock & lead it to safety
- II.** The specific question regarding the death of believers vv. 13b-14  
Do not grieve in your souls as those who have no hope
- a. “those others” = “those without” in v. 12  
These are people outside the Christian faith
  - b. Our hope is in the resurrected Jesus v. 14a
  - c. Jesus is the first fruits of the resurrection v. 14b  
Jas 1:16-18; I Cor 15:19-23 (*see also* Mt 27:52)
  - d. Since we believe in one, we also believe in the other  
This is why Paul uses the word “sleep” to refer to death  
Death is not the end, as pagans often believe.
- III.** The underlying teaching of Jesus vv. 15-18  
**Note:** the topic here is resurrection; the Second Coming of Jesus
- a. “the word of the Lord” v. 15
  - b. Living saints will not precede sleeping saints when Christ comes
  - c. The coming of Christ will be a very public event v. 16  
No “secret rapture” is depicted here!
  - d. The final meeting of Christ and His church v. 17
  - e. This message is to be a comfort to the saints v. 18  
The death of our loved ones certainly brings sorrow;  
But it is a sorrow undergirded with hope and joy.  
Let us take comfort in the promise of resurrection.