



DIGGING DEEPER

1 Thessalonians 4v13-18 – **A Living Hope**

PLEASE READ – 1 Thessalonians 4v13-18

GETTING STARTED

What question is Paul addressing in this section and how does that fit with Paul's prayer in 3v10?

Why does Paul want them to have clarity in this area? (v13 & v18) How then should we grieve?

1) THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (v14)

How is the resurrection of Jesus linked to our own resurrection from the dead?

Why does Christian hope look backwards as well as forwards?

How prominent is the resurrection in your own thoughts on any given day?

2) THE RETURN OF JESUS (v14-16)

What do we learn about the return of Jesus in v14-16?

How would that have encouraged the church in Thessalonica? How does that encourage you?

What does Paul mean when he says... 'the dead in Christ will rise first'?
See also 1 Cor 15v51-54

3) A REUNION WITH JESUS (v17-18)

Who does Paul turn his attention to in v17?

Why are the clouds so significant? Think about key 'cloud moments' in bible history...

Why does Paul speak about the doctrine of the return of Jesus? (v18) Why is this important in light of ongoing debates?

Meditate on the words of John below...

***1 John 3v2:** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*