

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT-8

“Ain’t No Grave Gonna Hold Me Down”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Introduction: Looking back in the chapters, Paul refers to the Lord’s coming back in each chapter:

- First, the coming in the Lord is a saving truth (1 Thessalonians 1:10).
- Secondly, the coming of the Lord is a serving or soul winning truth (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).
- Thirdly, His coming is a stabilizing truth (1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)
- Now here in this chapter His coming is a satisfying truth (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

I. FIRST, NOTICE HOW HE PRESENTS A PREVIEW (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

A. First, his preview involved a purpose and plan (4:13).

1. First, his desire was to remove their ignorance and give them Biblical insight (4:13a). ***“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren . . .”***

2. Secondly, this would give them hope relating to the resurrection of Christ and His return at the Rapture (4:14).

3. Thirdly, his plan and purpose was to give comfort and remove their grief (4:13c). ***“ . . . that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”***

B. Secondly, His preview includes the proof (4:14).

II. SECONDLY, NOTE HOW HE PROVIDES A _____ (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

Since we never know exactly when an imminent event will take place, three things are true:

- A. First, we cannot count on a certain amount of time transpiring before an imminent ever happens, therefore we should be prepared for it to happen at any moment.
- B. Secondly, we cannot legitimately seat a date for it to happen.
- C. Thirdly. We cannot legitimately say that any imminent ever will happen soon.

III. THIRDLY, CONSIDER HOW HE PRODUCES A _____ OF THE EVENT (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

A. First, there is a picture _____ Christ Himself (4:16a) ***“For the Lord Himself . . .”***

B. Secondly, there is a picture _____ some sounds (4:16b).

1. First, there will be a _____ (4:16c) ***“ . . . with a shout . . .”***

2. Secondly, there will be a _____ (4:16c) ***“ . . . the voice of the archangel . . .”***

3. Thirdly, there will be the _____ of the trumpet (4:16e) ***“ . . . with the trump of God.”***

3.

C. Thirdly, there is the picture of the _____
(4:16e) “... *and the dead in Christ shall rise first* ...”

D. Fourthly, there is the picture of the _____
(4:17).

1. First, the rapture will involve a _____
(4:17a) “*Then, we which are alive and remain shall be caught up* ...”

2. Secondly, the rapture will include a _____
(4:17b). “... *together to meet the Lord in the clouds.*”

3. Thirdly, the rapture will incorporate a _____
(4:17c) “... *and so shall be ever be with the Lord.*”

E. Fifthly, there is the picture of _____
(4:18). “*Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.*”

CONCLUSION: How can we prepare for the Lord’s imminent return in the Rapture? In Titus 2:11-13, we can find a simple, three-fold answer:

1. First, you need to make sure you have personally _____ of sin and placed faith in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour (Titus 2:11).

2. Secondly, you need to continually _____ a corrupt lifestyle (2:12a).

3. Thirdly, you need to consciously _____ to live in a sensible, Godly manner (2:12b-13).