

**BRIDE****INSPIRED BY HOPE**

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11

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**MESSAGE NOTES****The River of History:**

*For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. — Matthew 13:17*

*Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. — 1 Peter 1:10 – 11*

*Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming. — 1 Peter 1:13*

**Christ's return:**

1. What will happen to those who have already died? (4:13 – 16)

*Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. — 2 Corinthians 5:6 – 8*

*Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. — John 5:25*

2. What will happen to those who are still alive? (4:17 – 18)

*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. — 1 Corinthians 15:51 – 53*

*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. — 1 John 3:2*

3. When is it going to happen? (5:1 – 3)

*But about that day or hour no one knows ... — Mark 13:32 – 35*

*Jesus said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority." — Acts 1:7*

4. What do we do now? (5:4 – 11)

*... This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven. — Acts 1:11*

*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. — Colossians 3:2 – 4*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing you recall from this past weekend's message?
- Read back over 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11.
- What are some of the emotions and questions people experience when someone who is close to them dies?
- When someone we love dies, is it unspiritual for us to mourn? Can you think of an example of Jesus mourning (hint: John 11)? How is our mourning different because of our attachment to Christ?
- What sort of questions were the Thessalonians wrestling with? Why do you think the Thessalonians might have been worried that their deceased loved ones would miss out on the return of Christ?
- Paul makes certain things very clear while other details are simply not discussed. Why do you think God chooses to only reveal the broader realities of His return?
- Why is an understanding of Christ's coming and our eternal future so important?
- Some Christians get very specific in their claims about Christ's return (when, how, orders of events ...). Why might this actually be very counterproductive?
- How does this understanding of our future impact the way you view the week in front of you? How might it impact what you do?