

1 THESSALONIANS

**STANDING FIRM & PRESSING ON,
UNITED TO JESUS.**

Encouraging One Another Pleases God

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

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First Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 teaches believers to grow in pleasing God by using His truth about the return of Jesus Christ and the coming Day of the Lord to encourage one another with comfort and with caution.

Two questions frame these passages:

1. Some believers have died before Christ's return. Will they miss His return?
2. The return of Jesus will also signal the judgment of God. How should we live in light of the coming Day of the Lord?

Eschatology – The category of Christian teaching that focuses on the future aspects of God's plan for man and the return of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 & 5:11 include the only imperative verbs in this passage. They are commands to encourage one another.

Parakaleo – The Greek word translated encourage; from *para*, which means alongside, and *kaleo*, which means "to call." An invitation to come alongside.

1. God's Word urges believers to speak of the truth of Christ's return to encourage one another with comfort (4:13-18).

Elements of this encouragement:

Parousia - Greek term used in the New Testament for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Imminence –

Forever –

The Gospel –

2. God's Word urges believers to speak of the truth of the Day of the Lord to encourage one with caution to live alertly and in the light (5:1-11).

Questions to Consider

1. In your experience as a believer in Jesus Christ, what has been the fruit of the New Testament's teaching about the return of Jesus Christ? What kind of fruit are we being urged toward in the passages we're considering today?
2. What's distinctive about the kind of grief that Christians are warned against in 1st Thessalonians 4:13?
3. What was Paul looking for or expecting to happen next in God's dealing with man? How does this relate to the doctrine of imminence?
4. Where in the Bible was the Day of the Lord taught before Paul's letters? What do we know about it from previous teaching?
5. How is your daily life being influenced by a belief in the return of Jesus Christ *and* in the knowledge that the Day of the Lord will mean God's judgment on unbelievers?
6. Who can you encourage this week with truths about the return of Jesus Christ and the coming Day of the Lord?