

### 1 THESS.4:13-5:11 Living with the End in Sight

Have you ever been to a funeral? Did you feel you had anything helpful to say to those who were most affected by the person's death?

*Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

1. Paul does not want the Thessalonians to be "uninformed... about those who are asleep" (v. 13). What do you think Paul means here by the word "asleep"? also see 1 Corth 15:20-26; 50-52

2. Why does he want them to be informed?

3. According to Paul, what is the Christian hope (v. 14)?

4. How do we know this hope is sure and certain, and not just wishful thinking?

5. Is it wrong for Christians to grieve when they suffer bereavement? If not, how should their sorrow differ from that of the world and why?

*Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.*

6. Why are activities like sign-seeking and predicting the time of the Lord's return unhelpful as a way of preparing for his return?

7. Why does the certainty of the coming of King Jesus needed to be proclaimed urgently and clearly in our generation?

8. As awesome and frightening as the Day of the Lord will be, Christians need not tremble as they think of it. What is it that takes away the fear of that day? vs.9-10

9. Why is being ðawakeö and ðsoberö the only appropriate way of life for Christians?

10. How do you think faith, love and hope can be like armour and help us to be ðsoberö?

11. In verse 18 & 11 Paul concludes what he has taught by instructing the Thessalonians to ðencourage one another with these words í and build each other upö. How can you do this?

Give thanks for Carols in the Park and pray for ongoing fruit to come from it. Pray that we would have a spirit of growing prayerfulness among us.