



1



2

I Thessalonians

chapter #1

- **Respect** the Word & Way of the Cross.

chapter #2

- **Respond** to life's circumstances.

chapter #3

- **Receive** from a spiritual community.

chapter #4

- **Resist** carnal & cultural temptations.

- **Renew** our heritage and hope.

3

Matthew 6

"22 "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But **if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.**"

**The way we see things shapes
how we respond, what we expect,
and how we behave.**

1 Peter 1:13

"Fix your hope completely
on the grace to be brought to you
at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

4

1 Thessalonians 4

"13 But we do not want you to be **uninformed**, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no **hope**. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and **rose** again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead **in Christ** shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore **comfort** one another with these words."

5

1 Thessalonians 4 (interrogative paraphrase)

I want you to be informed of the "blessed hope" that we have in Christ, so that you will be at peace and able to comfort others. Jesus' resurrection assures us that all who are united with him will be included in the kingdom blessings, even if they have died before he comes. Jesus' return will not be a secret. Those who have died will be raised to join those who are alive at Christ's return so that we will all be together forever.

6

1 Thessalonians 4:13

"But we do not want you to be **uninformed** (ignorant),..."

Christians are called to see clearly three things in 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

1. Our **HERITAGE** "in Christ" by faith.
2. Our **HOPE** for this life and the next.
3. Our **HELP** for others in need of comfort.

7

1. Our **HERITAGE** "in Christ" by faith.

- We are **sanctified** - imputed with Christ's righteousness.
- We are **secured** - as sons no longer slaves.
- We are **sharing** - with Christ as joint heirs.

We are saved **TO DO** "good works"
but **NOT BY** "good works".

All who are "in Christ"
have been reconciled with God
and are heirs with Christ to the Kingdom.

8

Romans 3:25

"...whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith.... that He might be **just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus."

The Word of the Cross is not:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Prison
- demanding service of a sentence for a debt owed. | 2. Parole
- releasing the convicted one on behavioral conditions. | 3. Pardon
- dropping the charges against one who has been charged. |
|--|---|--|

The Word of the Cross is Propitiation

- having the penalty paid by the judge for the convicted criminal.

9

The Law was given:
to convict us of our need for a Savior,
not to confirm our saving faith.

LAW

Matthew 6:15

"But if you do not forgive men,
then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Ephesians 4:32

"And be kind to one another,
tender-hearted, **forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**"

Grace

10

Hebrews 10:9

"When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made **the first obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

Matthew 5

"17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish but to fulfill**.¹⁸
"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, **until all is accomplished**.""

Romans 3:26

"So that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

11

Holiness
is the way to God.

The Cross of Christ FOR us
(not **THROUGH** us)
is the way to Holiness.

Faith (not moral virtue)
is the way to Christ.

12

Mark 2:22

“And **no one puts new wine into old wineskins**; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and the skins as well; but one **puts new wine into fresh wineskins.**”

Hebrews 8:13

“When He said, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made **the first obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the **old things passed away**; **behold, new things have come.**”

Romans 10:4

“For Christ is **the end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.”

13

Galatians 3

“23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ**, that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor.**”

Galatians 4

“4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might **redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ 7 Therefore **you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.**”

14

The Law Covenant is terminated at the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.

Hebrews 7:18

“For, on the one hand, there is **a setting aside of a former commandment** because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”

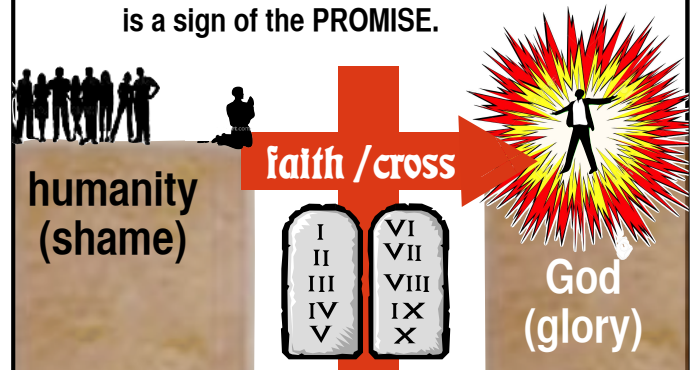
Contrast

The Cross, Resurrection, & Pentecost mark the change from the Old Covenant to a New Covenant.



15

The **WORD** and **WAY** of the Cross
is a sign on the **PATH**
to the **RESURRECTION** which
is a sign of the **PROMISE**.



16

2. Our HOPE for this life and the next.

- In this life we **BEAR A CROSS** - share Christ's suffering and **WAIT** for our “blessed hope”.
- Our **RESPONSE** (peace, patience, & power) to life's ups and downs is a witness to our faith in waiting for the promised resurrection.

This means that we are not expecting the kingdom before its time and without its King.

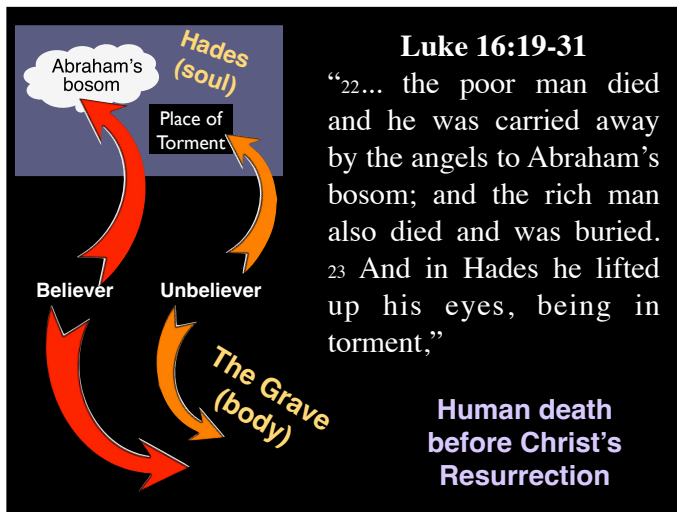
The **RESURRECTION** is the doorway to hope and glory.

17

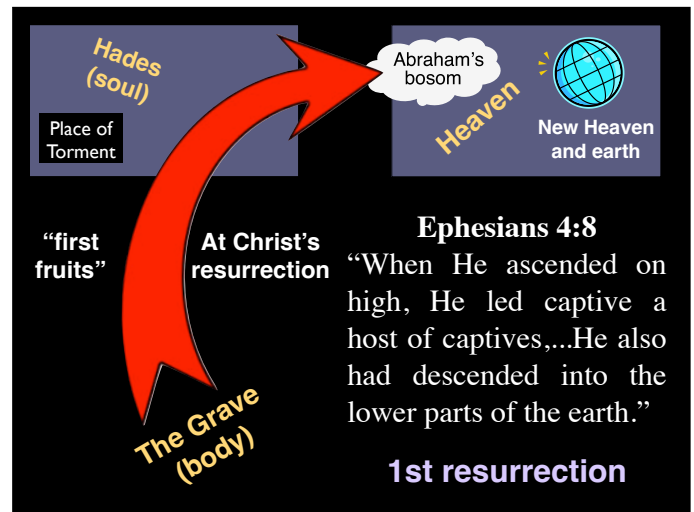
What were the O.T. Prophets expecting at the end?
(temporal application)



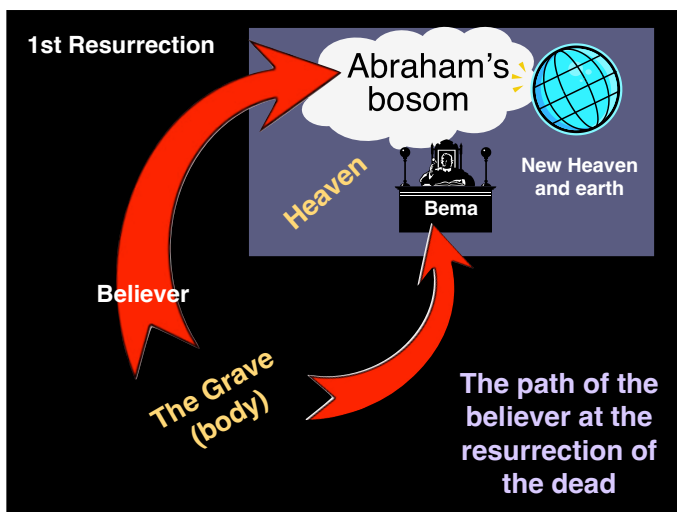
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19



20



21

Our Hope is beyond this life and is linked to Christ's Resurrection

1 Cor.15:19 — “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

1 Pet.1:3 — “He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Rom.8:23-25 — Believers “eagerly wait for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies,” and are saved in hope.

Phil.3:20-21 — Our citizenship is in heaven, “from which we eagerly wait for a Savior,” who will transform our bodies.

1 Jn.3:2-3 — When Christ appears, “we will be like Him,” and this hope motivates purification.

22

1 Corinthians 15

“12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then **our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.**”

**If Christ is not raised -
The credibility of Christianity is gone.**

“15 Moreover we are even found to be **false witnesses** of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.”

**If Christ is not raised -
Our personal credibility is gone.**

23

1 Corinthians 15

“16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then **those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.**”

**If Christ is not raised -
This life is all there is.**

“19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men **most to be pitied.**”

**If Christ is not raised -
Christians have wasted their lives.**

24

Realistic expectations are a key to peace, wisdom, and maturity.

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.** Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 16:33

"... that **in me you may have peace.** In this world **you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2 Timothy 3:12

"And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted.**"

1 Corinthians 15:19

"**If in Christ we have hope in this life only,** we are of all people most to be pitied."

25

Too many Christians have a confused idea of Christian's hope as though it is:

- tied to **social justice and political reform?**
- tied to **moral behavior under the Law?**
- tied to **life's good circumstances?**
- tied to **outward appearance?**
- tied to **our doctrinal purity?**
- tied to **answered prayer?**



26

Romans 8

"18 For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.** 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we **hope for what we do not see,** with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

27

3. Our **HELP** for others in need of peace.

A pattern in Paul's letters

Affirmation

*Who we are
and what we
have*

Exhortation

*What we are
called to do with it
in this life*

Introduction

Body

This means that we **clarify and comfort**
before we **challenge and correct.**

28

I Thessalonians

Next week
5:1-11

The Day of
the Lord

29