

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Main Thought: There are five fundamental facts contained in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, which can give us hope in the midst of despair.

1. REVELATION: We have God's _____ . (vv 13, 15)

2. RETURN: _____ is coming again. (vv 14-15)

3. RESURRECTION: The _____ dead will rise first. (vv 15-16)

4. RAPTURE: Living _____ will be caught up. (v 17)

5. REUNION: We'll be with the Lord _____ . (vv 17-18)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. What did Paul not want the believers in Thessalonica to be uninformed about? What did the believers seem to be concerned about? (v 13)

8. What word of hope does Paul give them in verse 14?

9. What word of hope does Paul give them in verse 15?

10. What word of hope does Paul give them in verse 16? What sounds and images are with Christ's coming?

11. What word of hope does Paul give them in verse 17?

12. How would all of these facts be an encouragement to the believers?

13. What have you learned that will be an encouragement to you?