

Introduction: 1 Corinthians 15:50-52 “We shall be changed” is mentioned twice to emphasize its reality. Vs. 53-54 tells us that these bodies are not fit to enter heavens gates or to stand before all that is perfect. Oh, what a day that will be – free from our fallenness.

THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. There was a concern in the church that those who passed away would not get to go to heaven.
 - a. Jesus assures us that they would precede us in the clouds of glory.
2. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up with them to ever be with the Lord
3. What shall we see?
 - a. Jesus smiling at the love of His life, His church. This moment cost Him everything.
 - b. Probably angels, the celestial sons.
 - c. Maybe Moses, Enoch, Adam and Eve, Daniel, Noah and his wife, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Paul, John the Baptist, my relatives who knew Christ in a long genealogy, friends.

THE SUDDENESS OF HIS RETURN 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. Coming as a thief – an unknown time v 2
2. When the governments of the world are saying all is well – the final birth pain. The baby is here which is the king of the kingdom of God v.3
3. We will not be overtaken by the thief for we are of the Day, of the light v 5.
4. Let us not sleep but watch vs. 6-7.
5. Let us put on the breastplate of faith, love, a helmet the hope of salvation v. 8

THE RELEASE FROM WRATH vs. 9-11

1. We are not appointed to wrath but salvation v. 9
2. So dead or alive we will be with Him v.10
3. Therefore, comfort and edify one another v.11

Last Words: John 14:1-3, 28-30 Jesus said He was going and coming back. He is going to prepare a place for us. The ruler of this world is coming once again. Can we say He will find nothing in me?