

THE COMFORT OF CHRIST'S COMING

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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Paul encourages and comforts us with five fundamental facts concerning the return of the Lord.

1. Revelation: We have God's Truth (Vs.13, 15a)
 - A. God's revelation is based on the historic fact of Christ's resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).
 - B. The authority of God's Word gives us the assurance and comfort we need (1 Corinthians 15:12-20).
2. Return: Christ Is Coming Again (Vs. 14-15)
 - A. What should be our attitude towards Christ's coming?
 1. Mark 13:33-37: watch and pray
 2. Philippians 3:20: look
 3. 2 Timothy 4:8: love
3. Resurrection: The Christian Dead Will Rise (Vs. 15-16)
 - A. Paul pointed out that the resurrection of the human body is like the growing of a plant from a seed. The dead body is the seed that is planted in the ground; the resurrection body is the flower that comes from that seed. Warren Wiersbe
 - B. The Christian doctrine of resurrection assures us that death is not the end.
4. Rapture: Living Believers Caught Up (Vs. 17)
 - A. The Latin word raptō means "to seize, to carry off".
 - B. Suppose Christ told you that He was planning to come at midnight tomorrow. In what ways would that knowledge affect you? What changes do you need to make to get ready?
5. Reunion: Christians Forever With The Lord (Vs. 17-18)
 - A. What comfort do you feel in knowing you will one day meet your loved ones again?
 1. 2 Corinthians 4: 13-15: Faith
 2. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20: Hope
 3. 1 Thessalonians 4:17: Promise