



**"Tomorrow's Joy for Today"**

October 18, 2020

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**Part 9 of "Build to Last"**

Verse 17, "... and so we will **always** be with the Lord."

**1. Preview: 4:13**

a. "...that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope."

b. Hope in grief comes from \_\_\_\_\_ Christ now and knowing we will be with him \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Hope \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 14-17).**

Jesus died and rose again

→ (through Jesus) →

God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

a. This we declare to you by... ?

b. *Parousia*: The expectation is *Parousia* is a  
-----coming. Which is AMAZING!

c. V. 17, "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught  
up together with them in the clouds to -----  
----- in the air, and so we will ----- be with the  
Lord."

### 3. Hope ----- (v. 18)

a. The hope expands our world beyond the  
----- of mourning by placing it in the  
context of -----.

b. We are ----- - ----- people, even  
in grief, because of this promise.

## Discussion for Families

Talk about things that make you sad. You can go as simple or heavy as your family and kids' ages dictate. Discuss ways in which what we know about Jesus and eternity can change how we see current grief. *(You may want to define grief and hope, and talk about examples of each in day-to-day life.)*

## Discussion Questions

Some of these questions come from a book called "Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Thessalonians," by Mark Howell. Feel free to move at your own pace through the questions, speeding up, slowing down, or skipping, as needed.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

**Dig Deeper:** How would you summarize the hope Paul refers to in your own words? How does it differ from those who don't know or believe in Jesus?

What are some examples today of how not knowing Jesus creates additional or unnecessary confusion or grief?

How would you explain to an unbeliever Paul's statement in verse 15, "For this we declare to you **by a word from the Lord...**"

Read Genesis 3. Think about each reunion that will take place Christ's coming? How do these reunions reverse the curses from sin?

How should we live differently, day-to-day, knowing that Christ is coming again? How does that change the way we experience both the good and bad seasons of life? (*Parents: How does it change the way you raise your kids?*)

Verse 13 talks about grieving and verse 18 talks about encouragement. Discuss how that transition happens. Grief is not wrong - in fact, it's inevitable over the course of a life. How *should* believers grieve, in context of eternity? And how is that different from the world?

*Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing to us the hope of eternity. Jesus, thank you for paying the price for our sin, so that we could access eternal life through you. Help us change the way we see our lives - its ups and downs - in the bigger picture of eternity. And Lord, please come soon! We await the sights and sounds of your return with anxious anticipation and hope. Amen.*