

## **The Dead in Christ**

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:28

by Don Falkos

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The believers in Thessalonica were anxiously awaiting the coming of the Lord. They were concerned about those of their number who had already died. Would they miss out on all that was to come? Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonian assembly to alleviate their apprehensions.

Jesus died and was raised to life again. God will likewise raise to life again believers who have died.

One word of command, one shout from the archangel, one blast from the trumpet of God, and the Lord himself will come down from heaven. The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive, left on the earth, will be swept up with them into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with him forever. So be encouraged!

Don't worry about when this is going to happen. As you already know, because I've already told you, the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night and as suddenly and inescapably as birth-pangs to a pregnant woman. The best we can do is to stay alert, with our wits about us, putting on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

God didn't choose us to condemn us, but to save us through Jesus Christ our Lord. He died for us, so we might share his life.

Now brothers and sisters, give every possible support to your leaders, who work so hard on your behalf. Live peacefully with each other. Warn the lazy. Encourage the timid. Take care of the weak. Be patient with everyone.

Be joyful and thankful always. Don't stifle the Holy Spirit. Hold on to what is good, and avoid every kind of evil.