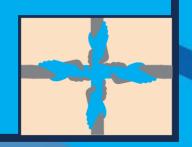


Following Jesus Together

Each of us MUST do something with the historical fact of the empty tomb (Jesus' earthly body DOESN'T exist)

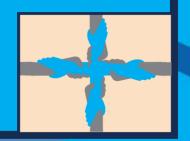
Matthew 28:1-7



God DOESN'T want ANY of us to be uninformed (to be uneducated) or to be uneasy about life after death (I John 5:13-15)

Followers of Christ have a confidence NOT in what we have done, BUT in Who we have trusted

I Thessalonians 4:13-18



COMFORT

ONE ANOTHER

Following Jesus Together

Paul left Thessalonica AFTER Jason (his host) was accused of harboring traitors of Rome (Paul and Silas)



Paul writes this section to offer hope and comfort to people, who had just recently experienced tough personal loss (I Thessalonians 4:13-14)

There is NO shame in being sad over the passing of someone special (grief is expected and normal)



Hold on to the glorious hope (remember, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord)

There is a secure spot reserved for God's children in a very real and spectacular place, called Heaven



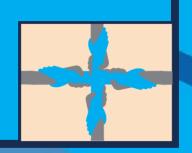
"Uninformed" = ignorant, to be unaware, to remain unknown

If we really believe that Christ was raised from the dead – as concrete as Christ presently lives, ALL who have placed their faith in Him as guaranteed eternal life I Thessalonians 4:15-16

The Apostle Paul lived his life with the imminent return of Christ ever before him (Paul was everready and anticipating Christ)

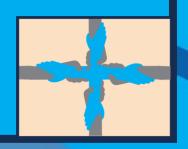
The Lord DOESN'T just send a messenger to retrieve God's children (Jesus Himself comes for us)

I Thessalonians 4:17-18



"Caught up" = taken with sudden force; to be seized; snatched up; to be hastily taken without **ANY** warning

Matthew 24:32-44



Although NONE of us KNOW the day or the hour, we do KNOW that it's coming (and it's closer today than yesterday)

NO one NEEDS to fear the future (Jesus' first arrival defeated death, hell and sin for ALL believers)



Grief is real, grief is to be expected, BUT grief DOESN'T have the final word (Jesus is coming back)