

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: We Encourage Hope

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1

REVIEW THE SERMON

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Who was Paul referring to when he talks about those who have fallen “asleep”? Why does he use this language?

What is the ultimate ground for our confidence and hope that we will be resurrected from the dead some day?

Why did Paul find it necessary to explain all of this to the Thessalonian Christians? What difference was it supposed to make for them?

2

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

When you think about the future, what do you tend to look forward to the most? Do you think much about the hope of your own future resurrection? Why or why not?

What is the difference between Christian hope and worldly hope? What worldly hopes have you heard or seen expressed over the past few months? How do these hopes and aspirations compare to the Christian hope of the future resurrection?

3

APPLY THE TRUTH

What difference does the hope of the resurrection make in our lives? How does this reality affect our perspective on life, especially during times of grief and difficulty? How does it help us when our own worldly hopes disappoint us? How does it support us when we see the world in a state of confusion and turmoil?

How do we keep our focus on the hope of the resurrection when Jesus returns? Why is it so easy to forget about it and focus on other things? How can we keep ourselves from being distracted from this central reality?

4

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Consider the fact that our entire lives are leading up to the great moment when we will finally meet Jesus face to face. What might it look like to live in light of that reality this week?