

## Questions – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18    GOING HOME

### Intro

Wow – so much in this passage that Nigel brought out. Hardly know where to start!

- Why is death such a ‘taboo’ subject in the Western World? Do you think this is more so than in the third world?
- What does secularism and atheism have to say about death?
- How can we turn this subject to something positive in our discussions?

### **1. The Purpose of these words (vs13 & 18)**

- What does Paul want the Thessalonians to do with what he is sharing about death? List Paul’s main points.
- Did the early church think more about the Second Coming than we do today? Why is that?
- Nigel said, “It’s the Christian’s belief in the RETURN of Jesus Christ that brings sharper focus to what we do on earth, which has led to so many acts of blessing to the world. Including, science, medicine, sanitation, orphanages, care homes, charities, human rights, abolition of slavery & child labour – Christians were at the forefront of it all.”  
Do you agree? How does belief in Christ’s return help Christian’s to bless society?
- Is there something in all of us that makes men and women feel this life is not the end?
- Read what Jesus had to say about his return. Matt 26:64 – John 14:2, etc. What can we learn from his words?

### **2. The PAIN that these words address (v13b)**

- The pain of grief is like no other pain. As Christians we are not immune from that pain. What does Paul mean when he says that we ‘do not grieve like the rest of mankind’?
- What does Paul mean by ‘hope’?
- Why does Paul refer to the Christian dead as being asleep? (vs13-15)

### **3. The PAROUSIA these words teach (vs14 & 15)**

- Parousia – The coming of a divine being OR the visit of a King or Emperor. Discuss how this applies to the Second Coming of Christ.
- These verses are a form of Christian Creed.
  1. Jesus died and rose again – Why does Paul mention this here?
  2. The Christian Dead will come back with Jesus – but are they not already with Christ in heaven?
  3. The Christian ALIVE will be caught up to meet Christ – How does that make you feel?

### **4. The PROGRAMME of events these verses reveal. (vs16 & 17)**

- RETURN – RESURRECTION – RAPTURE – REUNION.  
Talk about how you feel about what will happen at the Second Coming of Christ.
- How as believers, should we await his return?
- How should we live? How does the Second Coming effect how we live today?