

Looking to the Second Coming

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:6

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep,

1 Thessalonians 4:13

The Promise of the Second Coming of Christ

1. Paul i _____ us what happens to those who die.

*After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” **John 11:11-15***

It is not the spirit that sleeps, it is the body that sleeps.

*We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8***

*to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. **New King James Version***

*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. **1 Thessalonians 4:13***

*We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **1 Thessalonians 4:14***

[Jesus said] *“I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **John 14:3***

*After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” **Acts 1:9-11***

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Revelation 22:20*

We believe that Jesus died and rose again 1 Thessalonians 4:14a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Cosmological Argument, "the universe is not eternal"

1. Whatever begins to exist has a c_____
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause

If the universe has a cause... then it must have a "Cause-er"

- Cause-er, had to be eternal (before t_____)
- Immaterial, spirit (before matter)
- Personal, having a will to create
- Unique, a purpose is given for creation

The reason people are skeptical is not because they are too intelligent to believe,

but because they are too _____ to believe.

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:3-7

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him **1 Thessalonians 4:14**

Three audible announcements of Jesus' Return

1. A loud c_____

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. **John 5:28-29**

2. Voice of the a_____

3. The t_____ call of God

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. **Luke 22:46**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **1 Corinthians 15:20**

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **1 Thess. 4:17**

2. Paul instructs us to be r_____.

The Promise of the Second Coming of Christ.

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **1 Thessalonians 5:1**

While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **1 Thessalonians 5:3**

[Jesus] You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. **Matthew 24:6-8**

But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **1 Thessalonians 5:4-5**

So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. **1 Thessalonians 5:6**

For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled **1 Thessalonians 5:7-8**

3. Paul admonishes us to be e_____.

The Promise of the Second Coming of Christ.

*The Lord thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? **Joel 2:11***

*They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" **Revelation 6:16-17***

Reasons to be Encouraged by Christ' Return

1. We are _____

*But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:8-9***

2. We are going to be _____ in the truth

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Isaiah 35:4

3. The promise of _____

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:10

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:3

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Mark 5:40-41

4. It is the _____ to eternity and heaven

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"— 1 Corinthians 2:9

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8

Key: informs, cause, time, belligerent, command, archangel, trumpet, ready, encouraged, saved, vindicated, reunion, gateway