

A sunset scene with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds, casting a golden glow over a dark blue background. Faint, large letters are visible in the background.

“We Which Are Alive and Remain”

1Thessalonians 4:13-18



Unbelievers on their death-beds:

Voltaire

Thomas Paine

Thomas Hobbes

*These men did not prepare in this life for
the life that is to come.*



The saved do not share this fear.

1Thes. 4:13 - “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”

1Cor. 15:54-55 - “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”



The Lord understands our grief.

John 11:33-35 - “Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, Where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept.”



The Lord understands our grief.

John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”



God is the source of all comfort.

Here and Now

- 2Cor. 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”



God is the source of all comfort.

Hereafter

- Rev. 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Hope in Christ

We grieve, but not as those with no hope.

- 1Thes. 4:13 - “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Hope in Christ

We have the hope of resurrection.

- 1Thes. 4:14-17 - “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Hope in Christ

This hope becomes our comfort.


- 1Thes. 4:18 - “Therefore, comfort one another with these words.”
- “I’ll see you later!”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Hope in Christ

Our hope is reserved for those who are faithful to Christ till death.

- Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”



If we desire this hope, and if we wish it for those we leave behind, we must be faithful servants of Christ.

God-given Sources of Comfort


Precious Memories

Phil. 1:3-5 - “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Precious Memories

Phil. 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”



**Now is the time to be making
memories of our faithful service
to God and of our kindness and
love for others.**



God-given Sources of Comfort

Love of Brethren, Family, and Friends

2Cor. 1:4 - “Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”




**What relationships are we
developing now with other
devout Christians?**

God-given Sources of Comfort

The Word of God

Psalm 119:165 - “Great peace have those who love
Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.”

Psalm 1:2-3 - “But his delight is in the law of the
LORD, And in His law he meditates day and
night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the
rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its
season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And
whatever he does shall prosper.”



**Are we spending much time with
the Bible now so that our
familiarity with it will aid us
more in our grief later?**

God-given Sources of Comfort

Prayer

Prayer is a source of peace and strength.

- Phil. 4:6-7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Prayer

Prayer finds grace and help in time of need.

- Heb. 4:14-16 - “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Prayer

However, prayer is of value only if we are right relationship with God.

1Peter 3:12 - “For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”



**Are we drawing closer to God by
talking often with Him in prayer?**

God-given Sources of Comfort

Songs and Hymns

Eph. 5:19 - “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

Col. 3:16 - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

God-given Sources of Comfort

Songs and Hymns

Praising God in song when in grief is the moral equivalent of Job's words when in his grief he said:
Job 1:20-21 - "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.'"



**Do we sing spiritual songs enough
to find comfort in them?**



The death of a loved one is easier to bear because of God's grace.

Jesus died to deliver us from the fear of death.

Heb. 2:14-15 - “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”



Psalm 116:15 - “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”

The loved one has finally gone home; if we remain faithful, the separation will only be temporary.

Are we doing things today that will make the passing of our loved ones (as well as our own) easier to bear?

**“Why do you stand gazing
up into heaven? This same
Jesus, who was taken up
from you into heaven, will so
come in like manner as you
saw Him go into heaven”
(Acts 1:11).**

