



GROWING AND SHOWING YOUR FAITH

## KNOWING OUR HOPE

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

### I. Our struggle is to bring FAITH and EMOTIONS together.

- A. Bereavement is a universal, profound and painful experience.
- B. To lose a loved one is to lose in a significant way a part of oneself.
- C. Faith isn't a *band-aid* for our pain but a comfort in our grieving.
- D. Only knowledge can inspire true Christian hope in face of death.

### II. Our CREED is the ground of our CONSOLATION.

- A. Core of the gospel is that Jesus died and rose again, in triumph.
- B. If God did not abandon Jesus to death, he will not abandon us.
- C. The dead in Christ will not be separated from him or from living.
- D. Solidarity of believers w/ Christ & each other can't be destroyed.

### III. Our ESCHATOLOGY will control our CONFIDENCE.

- A. At the end, at the distinct call of God, the Lord himself will return.
- B. When he returns, those who've died in Christ will be resurrected.
- C. The living will be raptured to be with the departed and the Lord.
- D. The Lord & his people will be reunited in everlasting fellowship.

### IV. God's WORD is the source of our COMFORT.

- A. Paul intends to fortify the *faint-hearted*, not answer academics.
- B. Ignorance about "last things" has left them vulnerable to error.
- C. To comfort them he speaks "according to the Lord's own word."
- D. Encouragement and comfort comes as we believe what God says.

**SUMMARY:** Those who have CHRIST can have HOPE,  
no matter what happens in this world.

Is Jesus your hope for this world and the next?

***"We exist to glorify God  
by enabling all people  
to become fully-devoted followers of  
the Lord Jesus Christ."***