1 Thessalonians 08 - (4:13-18)

The Hope of the Lord's Coming

1. Introduction

- a. "Rapture" comes from the Latin word for "caught up"
- b. This resurrection is not disputed. The controversy is dispensational.

2. 4:13-14 - Them which are asleep

- a. "not have you to be ignorant" Paul's message is a revelation
 - i. Mystery is made known Eph 1:9; Col 1:9
 - ii. "Know ye not" $-12x Rom 6:3-4 \rightarrow Our oneness with Christ$
- b. "them which are asleep" ~ sleep in Jesus 4:14; dead in Christ 4:16
 - i. These people are 'asleep' and 'dead', but 'in Christ'
 - ii. Man = 3 parts body, soul, spirit 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 4:12
 - iii. What happens at death \rightarrow Ecc 12:7; Acts 2:27; 7:59 (Luke 23:46)
 - iv. Death is not annihilation → Luke 16:22-23; 23:43; Phil 1:23; 2 Cor 5:8
 - v. Death does not mean the soul is dead Matt 10:28; Eph 2:1
 - 1. Dead but alive Rom 6:11, 7:9, 8:2; 2 Cor 4:11, 1 Tim 5:6
 - vi. The bodies are asleep and corrupting not the soul Acts 13:36-37
 - vii. The road to hopelessness → soul sleep + Calvinism = no Christ
 - 1. Soul sleep leads to no punishment Rev 20:13-14
- c. "others which have no hope" The topic is the hope of resurrection to life
 - i. Resurrection was always true Job 19:25; Heb 11:17
 - ii. God made man a living soul Gen 2:7
 - iii. We were without hope (like the world) John 5:29; Eph 2:10
 - iv. If no resurrection then hope is void 1 Cor 15:19
- d. "even so..." we live and die with Christ Rom 6:3-4
 - i. "God bring with him" Jesus/God is coming → Titus 2:10,13

3. 4:15-18 – How the Lord will come

- a. The mystery: Some will not die. All will be changed 1 Cor 15:51-52
 - i. "in Christ" This is a coming for believers Eph 1:13-14; 4:30
 - ii. Waiting for the redemption of our bodies Rom 8:23
 - iii. The body is corrupted, not the soul 1 Cor 15:39-44
 - iv. The redemption of our bodies Rom 8:23
- b. "Lord will descend" This is not the only time 2 Thess 1:7-8; Rev 19:11
 - i. The archangel and coming war Jude 9; Dan 12:1; Rev 12:7
 - ii. The dead in Christ shall rise first 4:14
- c. "caught up together" → 1 Cor 15:51, Phil 3:20-21
 - i. This is not mentioned in Acts 1:11
 - ii. "In the clouds, to meet ... in the air" Eph 2:6, Col 3:4
 - 1. Later he comes to Earth in battle Zech 14:4
 - iii. So shall we ever be with the Lord Col 1:27-28