

April 1, 2018
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 Thess. 4:13-18

“The Lord is Risen!” – A Comforting Hope

We are not in the *Land of the Living*, but in the *Land of the Dying*. C.S. Lewis said, “*If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.*”

Statistics: 151,600 people die every day

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16 – NASB95)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 – NASB95)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 – NASB95)

But what about our departed loved ones? Will we see them again? Why do I still grieve? What hope do we have for the future?

- A. The Return of Christ – v. 13-14 – “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”**

- B. The Resurrection of the Dead – v. 15-16 – “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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”**

- C. The Rapture – v. 17 – “Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up”**

- D. The Reunion – v. 17 – “together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”**

Therefore, comfort one another with these words!