

**INTRODUCTION**

There is something "comforting" in the message of Jesus' second coming and the resurrection.

**"Comfort"** - to call to one's side; to soothe; giving aid; a helper; to ease grief or distress.

**1. A LOOK AT "THESE WORDS"**

**(v13) "I do not want you to be unlearned, brethren"**

Knowledge gives us comfort, confidence, and relieves anxiety.

**"concerning those who have fallen asleep"** - meaning, those who have died.

Phrase is also used in: (v14, v15; Mark 5:35, v39; John 11:11)

**"lest you sorrow"** - yes, we sorrow, rightly so; however, we have hope.

**(v14) "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again"** - yes, we believe that! (Luke 24:6)

**"even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus"** - "those" are brethren!

The text is giving hope to Christians who are concerned about "those" who preceded them in death, "those who sleep in Jesus."

There is an importance to being "in Jesus." (Revelation 14:13; Psalm 116:15)

The general resurrection of all the dead is not the context, and the resurrection of unbelievers is not considered here.

**(v15) "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord"** - it's a heavenly message.

**"that we who are alive and remain until the coming the Lord"**

The reference is to the church, Christians, who are alive at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord.

**"will by no means precede those who are asleep"**

There is no advantage or disadvantage to being alive or dead when the Lord returns.

Living Christians and those who "sleep" will get together. Note v17

**(v16) "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven"** - a sudden 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord.

**"with a shout"** - perhaps something similar to (John 11:43).

**"with the voice of an archangel"** - (2 Thessalonians 1:7)

**"and with the trumpet of God"** - an attention-getting sound.

**(v17) "the clouds"** - (Matthew 26:64; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7)

**"and the dead in Christ will rise first"** - it's (v14) "those who sleep in Jesus"

**(v17) "Then we who are alive and remain"** - Christians living at the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**"shall be caught up with them in the clouds"** - we will be together at this event.

**"to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord"** - heavenly home.

(2 Peter 3:10) "... earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"

**(v18) "Therefore comfort one another with these words"** - the intent of the words.

## 2. PAUL ADDS WORDS OF COMFORT IN (1 Corinthians 15:12 – 19)

(v12) “... how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?”

(v1-11) the resurrection of Christ is the “gospel,” cannot be denied because of the evidence of His appearances following His resurrection, and we are to (v2) “hold fast that word.”

Paul begins to list the consequences or conclusions (v13) “if there is no resurrection.”

1) (v13) “**then Christ is not risen**” - you think the One we saw was a hoax, deception? (v16)

2) (v14) “**then our preaching is empty**” - it’s in vain, useless, of no eternal value.

3) (v14) “**and your faith is also empty**” - you have believed a deceptive message. (v17)

4) (v15) “**yes, and we are found false witnesses of God ...**”

It’s an issue of truth versus falsehood.

I don’t want to testify to a falsehood. (Acts 2:22-24, v32-33)

5) (v17) “**you are still in your sins**” - I want to believe (Romans 4:24-25).

6) (v18) “**Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished**”

Without a resurrection, you just took away part one of this lesson, no comfort.

7) (v19) “**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable**”

If I think a good life is for this life only, I am to be pitied.

My hope is for eternal life: (John 11:25-26) “I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

CLOSE - (1 Corinthians 1:3-5) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **the God of all comfort**, 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. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”