

Title: LIKE THOSE WHO HAVE HOPE, 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13 – 18
(Chatham, NJ; 11/12/17, AM) [Pd – Topical]

Theme: Though there may be some confusing teachings about the timing and nature of Christ's return, we can take hope and courage knowing that it will surely happen.

Purpose: To encourage the church and to remind them that we are those who have hope: death is a door to eternal life with Christ.

Introduction:

1. On the day of the Ascension the angels assured the apostles that Jesus would return the same way they saw him leave, Acts 1.
2. The Resurrection is connected to his coming in 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
3. Both the resurrection and Christ's second coming are pillars of our beliefs and foundations of our hope.
4. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Paul wants above all for the church to be encouraged.
5. When he refers to others "who have no hope," he is reminding his audience that they do: Christians are people of hope.
6. In light of some confusing teachings about Christ's coming—especially the Left Behind/Rapture school of thinking—I want to make some points about it without being too technical.

Only One Second Coming

- A. Not a rapture followed by 1,000 years and another coming
 1. Technically those who espouse a "rapture" suggest that Jesus only takes away the faithful and leaves the rest to endure a "tribulation"
 2. These conclusions are complications based on bad exegesis and false assumptions
 3. One of the most significant false assumptions is that this school of thought insists that OT prophecies apply to the contemporary middle east