

1 THESSALONIANS 4 IN-AIR MEETING DON'T MISS IT

The Apostle Paul ended the first three chapters mentioning the Second Coming of Jesus... It sounded like this:

1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

3:12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Paul was very excited about the Rapture of the Church... AS AM !! He mentions it again in chapter 4...Listen...

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

- **CEV** - You are already living that way but try even harder.
- **NLT** - You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.
- IE don't try to see how close to the edge of sinning you can get... Stay FAR away from it.
- Some Christians are like cliff campers who pitch their tents on the side of a cliff, 100's of feet in the air.
 - WHY do they do that? What will eventually happen to those tents and the idiots camping in them?

- BELOVED, stay far away from sin... Do you know what happens to people who keep tigers for pets?
 - Don't keep a pet sin... It will get you! Listen...

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- The Apostle was concerned that the Thessalonians knew what GOD WANTED from them... I also want to know what God wants from me... I need to know what His will is...

3 **For this is the will of God**, your sanctification: **(set aside for God)** that you should abstain from "sexual immorality;"

- **PORNEA - Sound familiar? Abstain from it! It will reck you...**

HERE IS HOW TO LIVE

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel **(Wife?)** in sanctification and honor, **(like the China in a cabinet)** 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

- Remember that Paul is writing to a church that existed within a very carnal and sinful culture... How sinful? It was common for the citizens to march in protest to justify their sinful lifestyles. **CAN YOU IMAGINE?**
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- Sins that the Bible called abominations were being normalized as ordinary.
- AND... People were cheating on their spouses and excusing themselves while defrauding their wives and husbands. Paul warns them...

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his **(Christian)** brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

- **CEV** - You must not cheat any of the Lord's followers in matters of sex. Remember, we warned you that he punishes everyone who does such things.
 - The Apostle is teaching that married people be set apart for one another! God favors the faithful. He chastises cheaters. **WHY?**

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

- Holiness = purity... morality... innocent... set apart for God...
- Does our society teach these scruples still? Only some do...

8 Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

- Please hear me – You DO NOT want to be on the wrong side of morality when you stand before the Lord someday.
- I propose that if you have been a rebel... a nonconformist... a maverick, so to speak – I challenge you to be someone who seeks out the Lord's will with all of your heart – NOT TO PLEASE MEN... But to put a smile on the face of God.
 - Will I provide you with a list of do's and don'ts? NOPE.
 - You already have this in the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - What is more important than do's & don'ts? **LOVE...**

BE HARD WORKING, LOVING & QUIET

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love one another**; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; **(LOVE)** 11 that you also aspire to **lead a quiet life**, to mind your own business, and to **work with your own hands**, as we commanded you, 12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, **(Unbelievers)** and *that* you may lack nothing.

- 😊 **Proverbs 27:14** He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning... It will be counted a curse to him.
- THE POINT – We should be a blessing to our unbelieving neighbors.

Once again the Apostle closes a chapter talking about the coming back of Jesus Christ.

THE COMING OF THE LORD

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, **(Died)** lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

- Apparently some of the Thessalonians were upset that their loved ones had passed away before the return of Jesus to collect them...
- Paul wants to put them at ease... I WANT to put you at ease...
- I did this on Monday of this week. I told a grieving family that their dad was checking out heaven as we were together grieving...
 - I told them: "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me (Jesus). My Father's house is full of mansions that I built just for you. Believe in ME and you will never perish. You will spend eternity with Me."
 - And then we cried... We worshipped... We told story after story of Michael's Heroics and his shenanigans.
 - Why could we? Because we have hope!

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring **with Him** those who sleep in Jesus.

- Oh my! THAT is some kind of guardian, right?
- Those who have passed away are going to attend the Rapture from the good seats!

WHO GOES FIRST?

15 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. **THEY WILL NOT BE LEFT OUT**

LISTEN UP!

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the

dead in Christ will rise first.

- BTW... This is NOT one of the trumpets blown by an angel in Revelation... THAT trumpet is sounded during the tribulation – meaning that the church would be on earth during the tribulation...
- QUESTION – What trumpet is heard in V16?
 - The trumpet of God.
 - OH MAN! I hope we hear it soon!

17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up (**Snatched away**) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- Rapiro, raptura, (Latin) Harpazo in Greek, **(13 times – taken by force)** “Caught up” in English... It does not matter to me what you call it – JUST DON'T MISS IT!
- LISTEN, if you have not asked God to save you... forgive you... AND fill you with His Holy Spirit... do it now! RIGHT NOW!
- Say, “Lord save me!” Then... take comfort.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

I personally take SUCH comfort in these scriptures! When the Lord comes for us in the air... Suffering will be scrapped... Grieving will grind to a halt... Regrets will be repealed ... Guilt will be gotten rid of... Condemnation will be cancelled! Qualms will be quieted... Distress will disappear...

It will be the best day of your life and it will last forever!

Come... be comforted today!