

OUR HOPE

Introduction: Hope is _____ to keep you going in life. The Christian has great reason to keep hope alive in times of _____.

- I. A _____ Hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)
- A. There are certain things that we just cannot be _____ of.
 - B. God wants us to _____ the things which are found in His Word.
 - C. Death is an enemy everyone has to _____.
 - D. The death of the Christian is compared to _____ --the body lies dormant in the grave until the rapture.
 - E. At the moment of death the _____ goes to be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).
 - F. We grieve over departed loved ones because of our _____, not theirs.
 - G. To die and be with Christ is _____ (Phil. 1:21).
 - H. The death and _____ of Christ gives us the confidence of our own future resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20).
- II. A _____ Hope (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)
- A. The rapture was something newly _____ from the Lord.
 - B. In this coming of Christ, He does not touch down on _____.
 - C. At the rapture, the dead in Christ will rise before those who are _____.
 - D. There is _____ on God's prophetic calendar preventing the rapture from happening today.
 - E. This is what the N.T. believers are _____ for (Titus 2:13; 1 Jn. 3:2-3).
- III. A _____ Hope (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- A. No matter the _____, these words can bring great comfort.
 - B. "Who can tell all the _____ and blessedness that is included in these words?" (MacDonald).

Conclusion: "Here is the bliss of the saints at that day: they shall be ever with the Lord. It will be some part of their felicity that all the saints shall meet together, and remain together for ever; but the principal happiness of heaven is this, to be with the Lord, to see him, live with him, and enjoy him, for ever. This should comfort the saints upon the death of their friends, that, although death has made a separation, yet their souls and bodies will meet again; we and they shall meet together again (Henry).