

Grow and Discern Resource Sheet

Series: *Formed for the Future, Faithful for Now*

Date: 7/6/25 **Title:** Grieve with Hope (Living with the End in View) **Text:** 1 Thess. 4:13-15

Christian grief is real, but it is infused with hope because Jesus has conquered death—and that changes how we live. So, the Christian life is not about escaping pain but facing life's hardest realities—especially death—with a victorious faith. Paul calls believers to think rightly about death, not only when we face it personally, but as a vital part of Christian discipleship.

We grieve, but not like those without hope. Because Jesus has conquered death, we are invited into a life marked by courage, sacrifice, and deep joy. Christ's victory isn't just about our future resurrection—it's a present power that enables us to live fearlessly, love sacrificially, and endure sorrow with a living hope.

Key Sermon Points

1. The Majestic Grace of God Conquers Death (4:13)

- Christian discipleship includes learning how to think rightly about death.
- Grief is not a failure of faith—it is a mark of love.
- We grieve, but not without hope. The resurrection gives us durable peace and courage.

2. The Majestic Grace of God Promises Life (4:14-15)

- Our hope is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus.
- Christ is our “champion,” whose victory becomes ours (Hebrews 2:9-10, 14–15).
- Death is not a disadvantage to those who die in Christ—rather, they are with Him.
- The Christian hope reframes how we live today: with courage, perspective, and purpose.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on “discernment being more than deciding.” How can we remind ourselves that God's aims and ways go beyond our instinct for self-preservation? Consider Rom.12:2.
2. How has your view of death changed since becoming a Christian?
3. What does it mean to “grieve with hope”? How have you seen that done well—or poorly—in your experience?
4. Why is it important to learn about death even when we're not currently grieving?
5. How does the resurrection of Jesus empower us to live more boldly or sacrificially today? What might that look like for you?

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Meditating on Formation

1. **Reflect on 1 Thessalonians 4:13.** In what ways does your thinking about death need to be reshaped by Scripture?
2. **Meditate on Hebrews 2:14–15.** Jesus became human so that He could conquer death for you. How does this deepen your confidence in Him?
3. **Consider Philippians 1:21–24.** What would it look like for your life to be shaped by the tension between fruitful service and longing for Christ?

Additional Reflections from the Passage

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 as a whole reminds us of the communal hope we share—our hope is not only individual but corporate. What role does community play in helping us grieve well and hope deeply?

Verse 15 affirms the authority of Jesus’ words (“according to the Lord’s word”). What does it mean to allow Jesus’ words to define our understanding of life and death?

A Theological Reflection. In Hebrews 2:14-15, Satan is described as holding the power of death. Might this mean that the presence of death is connected to the evil that Satan introduced into the world? There is one theologian, at least, that blames the reality of death on Satan and not Adam, though Adam’s sin is why people die. If there’s time, discuss! 😊

Challenge This Week

Live like death has been defeated. Ask:

- Where do fear, bitterness, or the need to prove myself still rule?
- What’s one courageous, loving, or sacrificial step I can take because I know Jesus has conquered death?

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:58