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| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**  Chapter 4, verses 13-18 |  |

1. Read (see “Short Guide for Bible Study” handout for tips)
2. Recognize and Research
   1. Trace Paul’s flow of thought in this passage (see diagram worksheet)
   2. What does Paul mean by “those who sleep” in vs. 13? Why would he use this description?
   3. Why would Pagans/unbelievers grieve over death? In contrast, should we not grieve at all? In the context of verse 13, what is the key difference between Christians and others?
   4. Why is it so important to believe that Jesus died and rose again?
   5. What is the Chronological order of Christ decent? Does Paul include the historical timing of this event within the future history of tribulation, millennium, eternal state etc.?
   6. What Is Paul’s main command in this passage?
   7. Based on this passage, Christ coming back will be a noisy affair. What is significant about that?
3. Relate and Reflect
   1. What themes in vv. 13-18 are connected with other portions in this letter? Note any specific connections from earlier verses, then note connections that are later in the letter.
   2. What is the main “Authorial Intent” behind teaching of eschatology in the OT and the NT? How does revelation of the future shape our view of the present?
   3. Why is understanding of the Resurrection critical in understanding our future with Christ?
   4. Is Paul alluding to “soul sleep” by using the phrase “asleep in Christ”. Are believers immediately with Christ at death, or are they in a unconscious state till His return? Prove your point with other verse from the NT.
   5. What is God’s role in the resurrection of Christ, and also believers.
4. Respond
   1. How much time do you spend in the present thinking about our glorious future with Christ?
   2. How does your biblical knowledge of the future govern the way you live now? How does it shape your perspective on day to day living
   3. Do you encourage/counsel others brothers and sisters in Christ by reminding them of our glorious future.
   4. Other areas of personal application from these verses?