

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

**13**But we do not want you to be uninformed,  
brethren,

about those who are asleep,  
so that you will not grieve  
as do the rest  
who have no hope.

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

**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 not precede those who have fallen asleep

1. Re-read 1 Thessalonians 4:12. Who is Paul focusing on in this verse?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 2:19. What are the saints there believing in and hoping for?
3. Read verses 13-15 again in conjunction with 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3. What may have been in play regarding the attitude of those in Thessalonica?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

4. What is the significance of Paul bringing up the truths in these verses? Why does Paul want the believers to not be uninformed of these truths?
5. In 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4, what had Paul warned them about previously?
6. Read Matthew 9: 24 and Acts 7:60. What does the word “sleep” refer to in conjunction with Jairus’ daughter and the stoning of Stephen?
7. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16. How are those who sleep identified in verse 16?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 again.

8. What does the phrase “God will bring with him” tell us?
9. Read John 14: 1-3 and 1 Cor. 15:51-58. What is a term we use to describe these events?
10. In your own words define the rapture of the church.
11. Reread verse 14 of our passage. What happens to those who have fallen asleep?
12. Compare verse 14 with Romans 6:5. What similarities do you see here? How does this comparison color the way you read 1 Thessalonians here?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

13. Reread verse 15 of our passage along with 1 Kings 13:17 and 20: 35. What phrase is common to these passages?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 again.

14. Read John 14: 1-3. What does the term “I go to prepare” imply for the disciples as they were grieving Christ’s impending departure from them?
15. There are various similarities between our passage and the gospel accounts related to the rapture. Read Matthew 24: 31. What similarities do you see between our passage and 24: 31?
16. Read John 1:26. What similarity do you see?
17. How do these verses encourage you today?
18. How will these verses change how you approach the next week? The next month and beyond?
19. Summarize the meaning of this passage in one sentence in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray with hope in the coming of Christ. Praise God and express Gratitude to God for the assurance you have in the death and resurrection of Christ.