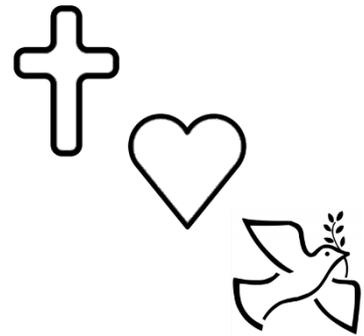


**January 17, 2020**  
**Willerup United Methodist Church**  
**Sermon Notes**  
**Pastor Marvin Singh**  
**1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 8**  
**Death is a Sleep**



This series of meditations is based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup>According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage each other with these words.

**Death is a Sleep**

What is death? Why people grieve and sorrow? What is the difference between people who know Life in Christ and people who do not know him? What is the hope of a Christian?

### Vs. 13-14.

vs. 13. What was the ignorance people had about those who fall asleep? How should we grieve and show our sorrow when a dear one departs? The Thessalonians were wondering about the loved ones who have died, and what happens after death.

We all sorrow and grieve after the departure of our loved ones.

Sorrow for the dead. Sorrow is the merciful relief to a soul bereaved.

It is human passion. Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, (John 11:35). Paul writes to them that we do not grieve like people who have no hope or assurance.

The people who were grieving without hope are described in Ephesians 2:12, “Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenant of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.”

Ephesians 2:3, “All of us also lived among them at one time gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”

“Don’t be ignorant brothers, about those who fall asleep.” Paul is not even mentioning the word death in this verse. He is writing to them of the Christian hope.

Paul writes that we have hope and assurance. He reemphasizes his gospel.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

vs. 14 “Death is a sleep. ... The only part of man to which the figure of the text applies is the body. As to the soul, the day of death is the day of our birth into a progressive and eternal life.”

Sleep indicates rest.

“Sleep implies the expectation of awakening. ... They wait for ‘the adoption, to wit, the redemption of the body.’”

The dead in Christ will be roused from their holy slumber and share in the glory of His second coming.

“The resurrection from the dead is a pledge of the restoration and future blessedness of all who sleep in him.”

*The Preacher's Homiletics Commentary, 530-531*

During his ministry Jesus raised at least two people who were dead.

Jairus's daughter (in Mark 5): One of the synagogue rulers made a request of Jesus to come to his house as his daughter was sick. Some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid, just believe." (Vs. 23; 35-36)

Jesus went and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? **The child is not dead but asleep.**" But they laughed at him. (Vs 39)

Jesus took her hand and said, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "little girl, I say to you, get up!")

At another time, Jesus also commanded, "Lazarus, come out." He, who was dead for four days came out of the tomb (John 11).

Jesus also taught about his coming death and resurrection. "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one can take it from me, but if I lay down of my own accord. **I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.** This command I received from my Father." (John 10:17-18)

And in John 2:19-22, "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'"

Jesus has the authority and he did it.

This is our hope and assurance of the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus also said in the Scriptures:

John 5:24 – "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me, has **eternal life**, and will not be condemned; he has **crossed over from death to life.**"

John 14:3 – "And If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come **back** and **take you** to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Matthew 24:3 – The disciples knew he would return, and were asking, when will you come back from heaven?

Matthew 25:31 – “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.”

Acts 1:2 Jesus taught, “until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instruction through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.”

1:11 – “‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”

1 Corinthians 1:8 – “He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on **the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Timothy 4:1 – “In the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will judge **the living and the dead,** and in view of his appearing and his kingdom . . .”

So we Christians look forward to meeting again our dear beloved ones, especially those who are in Christ.

The important phrase is “dead in Christ.” What does this mean? People who in this life have invited the seed of life - that is Jesus Christ. He lives in us. He has conquered death by experiencing death on the cross, the penalty and wages of sins.

Death in Christ is sleep. He writes in 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57,

“‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 6:5-7

“If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with. that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”