



## **The End of the World**

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Bible Teacher Ben Stuart

1. The following passages also draw specific application for the Christian life from the truth of the resurrection. How do these Scriptures tell us to 'apply' the resurrection? Which of these most encourages you?
  - a. Romans 4:25-5:1
  - b. Romans 6:4, 11
  - c. Romans 8:22-25
  - d. 2 Corinthians 4:14
  - e. 1 Peter 1:3-4
  
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.
  - a. What are your feelings about the limitations of your body?
  - b. In 15:20, Christ is the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." What is the meaning of the "firstfruits" analogy? (Ref: Deuteronomy 26:1-11.) Why does Paul use it here, referring to Christ?
  - c. How does the resurrection of Christ as the "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" encourage your thoughts about your current body?
  - d. The firstfruits analogy from 1 Corinthians 15 is also pictured in Romans 8:22-25. How might the use of this analogy in these passages help you process thoughts and expectations of this life, versus life after the resurrection?
  
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.
  - a. What is the meaning of "Death has been swallowed up in victory" and "Where, O Death, is your sting?" What light do Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14 shed on this passage?
  - b. Rather than saying, "Therefore, be encouraged", he says, "Therefore, work!" Why and how do you think Christ's victory over death is to inspire our labor for His kingdom?

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11.

- a. What sequence of events does Paul say will occur when Christ returns?
- b. Why are the examples of a thief and labor pains good analogies of what will happen on the day of the Lord?
- c. What dangers are associated with living in darkness?
- d. What instructions does Paul give for living in the light?
- e. Paul tells us that our defensive weapons against darkness are faith, love and hope. What are some practical ways in which these virtues can defend you?

Challenge: Share with one another what truths have been most meaningful to you. What impact has studying a biblical view of death had on the way you live?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

We cannot live long before death blows a personal sting. How we long for the day we can say, "Death, where is thy victory"! We love the images of you painted in these verses, victoriously presenting yourself to the Father as a 'down-payment' of the abundant crop! Help us not to grow weary, but to persevere in laboring for your harvest as we wait for your glorious return! Draw our hearts to long for that day!

Amen.

## STUDY DEEPER

This sermon ranked near the top for number of Postscript questions submitted. For a more in depth look at the sermon, and additional information on a variety of topics related to death, please tune in to PostScript and discuss what you learned with the group.

<http://faithbridge.org/sermon/postscript-the-end-of-the-world/#postscript-heading>