



PROPER 27 ARTICLE NO. 2005.919
1 Th 4:13-18

The resurrection if you persevere

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 through 18



But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are **alive and remain** unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are **alive and remain** shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Page 2

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 through 18

This was the very first book of the NT written by Paul from Greece c. 49-51 CE. Thessalonica is an important stop on the main Roman highway running across northern Greece and connected Anatolia to Italy. Philippi was also on the route. Paul had some opposition in Philippi and established a small community there, as he did next with Thessalonica.

In 1:9 we read that the Thessalonians “turned to God from idols”), so most of these converts were Gentiles.

Paul was forced to move on (?), and eventually reached Corinth from which he wrote this letter.

The saints at Thessalonica are worried about the brothers who have died already, will they join those still alive when the Lord returns?

My paraphrase

Paul mildly chastises the brethren in this letter, and tells them that they are not to behave like people with no hope^A. feeling sad over the brethren who have died, For as we believe that the Lord is resurrected after He died, so too our brethren who have died in Christ. will be resurrected, for the Lord will come from heaven and wake the departed brethren with a shout and with the call from the archangel, and they will hear God’s trumpet and they will be the first to be lifted up, before even we, who have persevered to the end.

Then we who are still alive in Christ and who have persevered (remain), will be swept up together with the resurrected brethren, and we will stay together with Christ, for ever.

So, keep the faith, hold on to the end, and do not worry.

(see proper 28 for a parallel passage)

^A people with no hope = those not in Christ, or those who were at one time but have not persevered to the end (*remain*).

More Insight*Page 3*

In these verses we see Paul's reminder that the brethren must persevere to the end regardless of how long the wait would be. They are justified by grace, and they do have the grace of faith, but they have not, apparently, the grace of patience. Twice Paul uses the expression *alive and remain*, which I take to mean alive in Christ i.e. imbued with the holy spirit and communicating with Christ continuously, and remain, meaning: not giving up on Christ's return, but hoping and waiting for the Parousia.

Doing Theology*Page 4*

Keep at your studies, go to church every week, attend bible classes and Sunday school, do good works. Understand more, discuss with those who already understand - not blind leading the blind. Read commentaries by the Anglican Bishops, don't let anyone distract you from your path, make time every day for studies, and "learn, mark, and inwardly digest"!

Peace.

