



Where'd
y'all go?

HOPE MORE AND MORE

TRUE



Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Next week will be better if ...

- ▶ **Plan to e-connect with a group to discuss our passage after the message in real time.**
 - Use Google Hangout for live audio & video.
 - Group calling or speaker phone.
 - Family table discussion.

Don't be a **hermit!**

- ▶ Call
- ▶ Text
- ▶ Email
- ▶ Pray
- ▶ Help
- ▶ Facetime
- ▶ **CONNECT!**



Re • fram • ing

- ▶ Seeing situations in a fresh, productive way when overlooked information comes to light.

▶ **What happens when we die?**



If I go, to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself that where I am there you may be also.

- A. The 11 disciples in the Upper Room.
- B. One thief at the crucifixion.
- C. Two men in the Parable of the Talents.
- D. Two sisters at the grave of their brother.

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Today you will be with me in paradise.

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Whoever believes in me will live even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

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*Well done, good and faithful servant.
Enter into the joy of your Master.*

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We gotta talk, dude!



A foundational truth to **reframe** your life

**God wants you to be with him forever
because God loves you.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13, NIV

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:14, NIV

14 For 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:15, NIV

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV

¹⁶ 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:17, NIV

¹⁷ 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:18, *NIV*

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Three phrases summarize what 1 Th 4:13-18 says about **HOPE**.

- 1. Hope** is as **sound** as where it is **found**.
- 2. Hope** is as **strong** as those who **belong**.
- 3. Hope** is as **wonderful** as our **words are full**.

Hope is as sound as where it is found

- ▶ Paul's personal story was reframed by an encounter with the resurrected Jesus on Damascus Road.

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Hope is as sound as where it is found

- ▶ Objective truth = Jesus died & rose.

Hope is as sound as where it is found

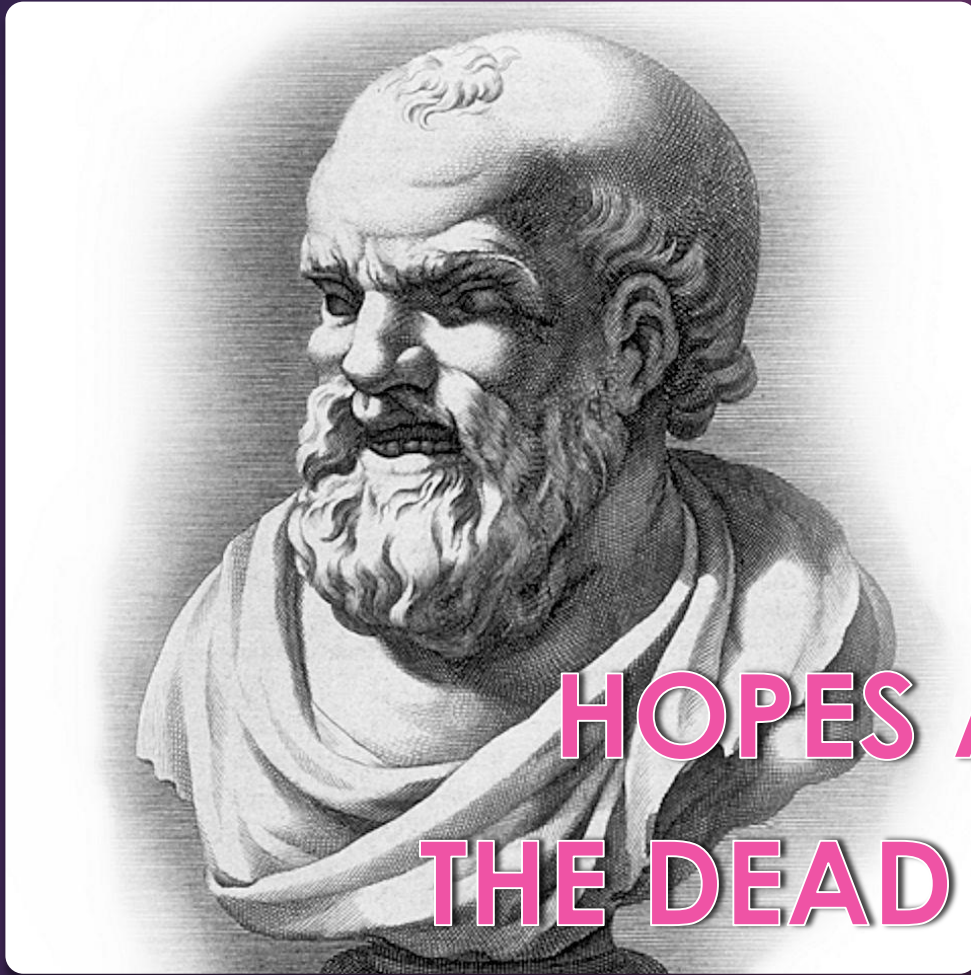
- ▶ Objective truth = Jesus died & rose.
- ▶ Personal investment = we believe.

1 Thessalonians 4:14, *ESV*

¹³ *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

Hope is as sound as where it is found

- ▶ Objective truth = Jesus died & rose.
- ▶ Personal investment = we believe.
- ▶ Objective truth + personal investment



Democritus

c. 460–c. 370 BC

Greek philosopher

**HOPES ARE FOR THE LIVING;
THE DEAD ARE WITHOUT HOPE.**

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide consists of a dark purple horizontal bar with a curved bottom edge. A vertical pink rectangle is positioned on the right side of the purple bar.

To hope more and more

Look where hope is found.

Hope is as strong as those who belong

▶ Two **critical** words:

- **In + Christ**
- *God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him —who have fallen asleep in Christ.*

Hope is as strong as those who belong

- ▶ As surely as Jesus was raised to new life—never to die again—we must be raised to life again and be with Christ.
- ▶ Why? **Our union with Christ requires it.**

Hope is as strong as those who belong

- ▶ The intensity of our emotions can drown out the messages of our believe system.
- ▶ **Confront emotional realities with spiritual realities.**



Hope more and more

because you belong to Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:18, *NIV*

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Hope is as wonderful as our words are full

- ▶ An “appearance” of someone important:
 - The dignitary, governor, emperor would stop outside your city.
 - City officials in their finest would go out to meet this one and be honored to escort him/her into your city.
 - “To meet” -- 1 Th 4:17; Acts 28:15; Mt 25:6

Hope is as wonderful as our words are full

- ▶ Is your hope merely a wish?
- ▶ Or is your hope based on divinely promised, sovereignly planned certainties?
- ▶ What words encourage?

And so we will be with the Lord forever.



Hope more and more

**Use words loaded with the
certainty of this hope.**

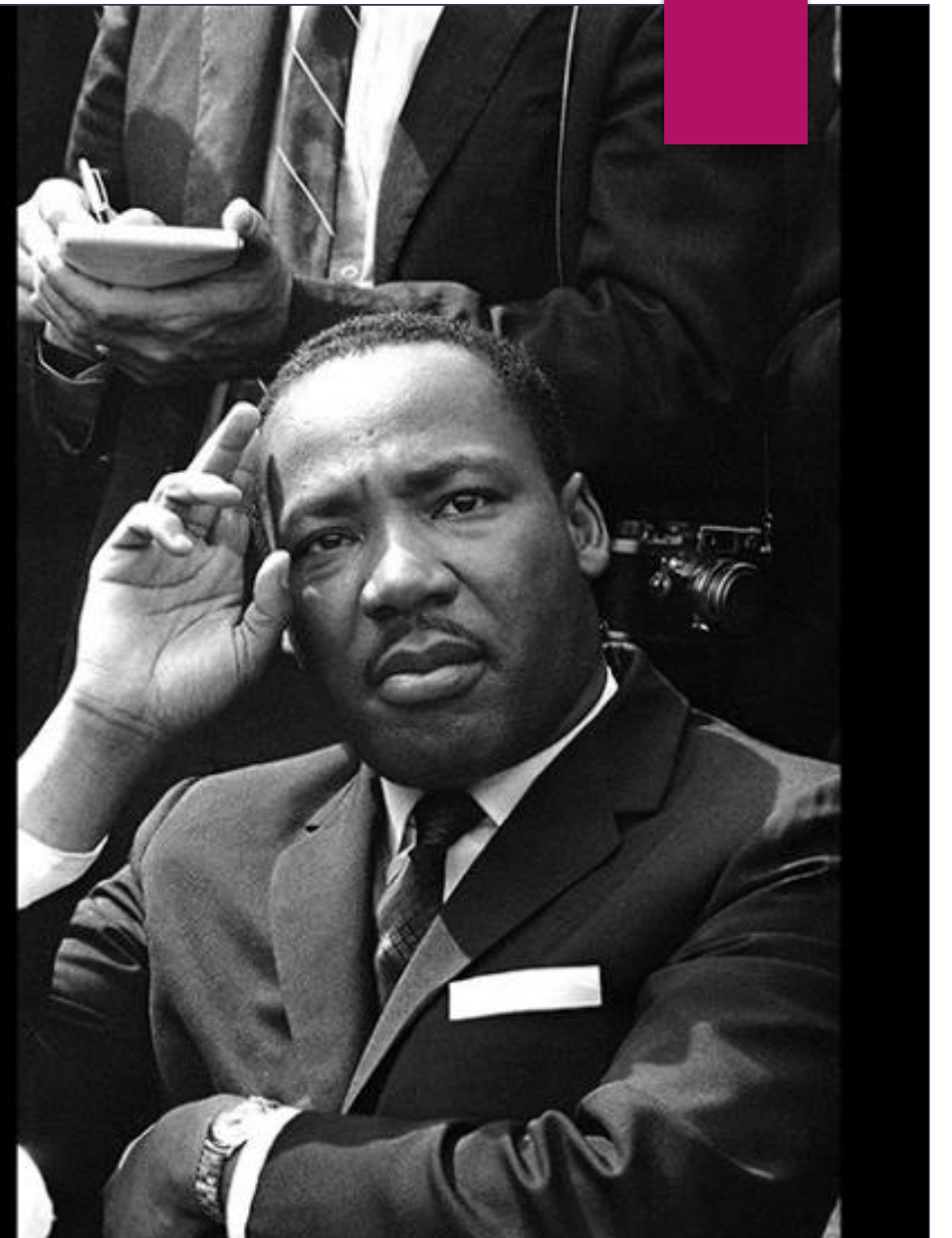
We will be with the Lord forever.

Start each day with fresh commitment:

Dear God, I choose to hope more and more—today. Help me!

Teach me the gospel's power in the One who died for sinners and lives to give them hope unshakeable.

I hope you can find some consolation from Christianity's affirmation that death is not the end. Death is not a period that ends the great sentence of life, but a comma that punctuates it to more lofty significance.



Death is not a blind alley that leads the human race into a state of nothingness, but an open door which leads man into life eternal. Let this daring faith, the great invincible surmise, be your sustaining power during these trying days.

