



# Words of Hope From Paul

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (5-10-09 - PM)

INTRODUCTION: Christianity is said to have been the fastest growing movement of any kind ever in the history of the world. Jesus introduced the basic principles of His way during His ministry, but He kept telling His disciples not to tell anyone about it until He was risen from the dead (Matthew 16:20; 17:9). When the Holy Spirit came on the first Jewish Pentecost day after the resurrection, they began teaching it everywhere they went. Paul adds to that great hope in I Thessalonians by telling us that Jesus may have ascended into heaven, but He will return. Let's see what he has to say . . . . .

## DISCUSSION:

### I. There is Hope Because Jesus Is Coming

I Thessalonians 4:15 says, "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 by no means precede those who are asleep."

### II. There is Hope Because The Resurrection Is Coming

I Thessalonians 4:16 says, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

### III. There is Hope Because Heaven Is Coming

I Thessalonians 4:17 says, "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

### IV. There is Hope Because Comfort Is Coming

I Thessalonians 4:18 says, "Therefore comfort one another with these words."

CONCLUSION: There is a great difference between being hopeful and hopeless. This great gap between being hopeful and hopeless has been bridged! Jesus died so that you might be able to be full of hope. He paid a huge price for you to have this hope. He loves you. Don't let Him die in vain for you. Accept His loving sacrifice. Rejoice in the hope of salvation. Paul found this hope and he challenges you to find it as well. He wanted the brethren to comfort one another with this wonderful hope. Listen to the words of Jesus and fill your heart with a passion for the message of the cross. Be like Paul and teach others about blessed hope of Jesus' coming, the resurrection, heaven, and great comfort in salvation!

WORD OF THE DAY = "**Hope**"