

**HOW CAN WE EXCEL IN GENUINE HOPE?  
UNDERSTANDING OUR INCREDIBLE FUTURE REALITIES IN CHRIST  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**I. DON'T BE IGNORANT ABOUT ETERNAL REALITIES FOR THOSE IN CHRIST (13-17)**

**A. We are not to be ignorant concerning believers that have died in Christ, so that we would not grieve like those who do not know Christ (13)**

1. Ignorance of biblical truth relates directly to worldly grief
  
2. Ignorance of biblical truth reinforces worldly hopelessness

**B. We are not to forget the basis of our hope: Christ and His completed redemptive work assures our resurrection (14)**

**C. We need to understand THE INCREDIBLE FUTURE REALITY CONCERNING HIS RETURN FOR US, our glorification, and glorious heavenly reunion (15-17)**

1. This truth is from His authoritative Word (15a)
  
2. The order of events in relation to His coming (15b)
  
3. Specific details **concerning His glorious return for us** (16-17)
  - (a) He will gloriously descend from heaven with the souls of who have died in Christ (16a)
  
  - (b) Those bodies of those who have already died will rise first (16b)
  
  - (c) Then we who are alive and we who were left behind will be caught up in the air to Him (17a)
  
  - (d) We will be reunited with loved ones in Christ in the air (17b)
  
  - (e) We thus will be with Jesus forever (17b)

**II. LET HIS TRUTH COMFORT YOU AND THEN GO COMFORT OTHERS (18)**