"Hope in Death"
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

C.I.T.—The promise of our resurrection provides hope and encouragement in the midst of death.
C.I.S.—We can find hope in death because of the promise of our resurrection with Christ.
Purpose—I want to encourage our church when considering death and encourage those who don't know Christ to accept Chris so that they can have hope in death.
Introduction—What hope can their be in death?

I. ***Hope in Death is Found in Explanation***.—vs. 13
   a. *Uninformed are hopeless*
      i. We do not desire you to be ignorant
      ii. The Thessalonians were ignorant of what happens to believers after they die.
      iii. Because of this ignorance, they were worried about those who die.
      iv. No doubt they were told that those who die actually live and that Jesus was coming back, etc.
      v. Yet they were unclear about what happens to a believer when they die and how was that different than a non-believer.
      vi. This ignorance put them in the same boat as the pagan unbelievers.
   b. *Unbelieving are hopeless*
      i. For those who do not know Jesus, death is the ultimate enemy.
      ii. Death is the end of the road and there is nothing beyond and therefore no real meaning in life.
      iii. They are hopeless.
      iv. Even non-Christians who believe in a system of an afterlife have a false hope, because it isn't true.
   c. *Unwilling are hopeless*
      i. People do not want to face this hopelessness and so they create false hope.
      ii. "At least they are in a better place."
      iii. "They aren't suffering anymore."
      iv. Maybe
   d. Illus.—Man asked for a preacher to claim that his brother was a saint.
   e. Application
      i. The reality is w/o Jesus there is no hope.
      ii. The unbelieving world has no hope when it comes to death and therefore, no hope when it comes to life.
      iii. As Christians, we have hope in this life and in the life to come.
      iv. If we are not careful, we will act just like non-believers if we don't have a healthy understanding of what happens after we die and what happens in the end of time.

II. ***Hope in Death is Found in Example***.—vs. 14
   a. Jesus's Death and Resurrection is an example.
      i. Jesus died and rose.
      ii. Crux of the gospel message—his substitutionary atoning death on the cross for our sins
      iii. His subsequent resurrection from the dead bringing victory over sin and death
   b. We are promised resurrection if we identify with his death.
      i. Col. 2:12, Romans 6:8-9; John 5: 28-29
      ii. We who identify with Christ's death will also identify with His resurrection.
   c. God will bring about this resurrection.
      i. God will lead

1. Bring and take
2. He will usher these people

ii. Sleep through Christ
1. The believers who have died and are still physically dead.
2. These are asleep through Christ—with and in Him.

iii. Brought with Him.
1. These asleep/dead believers will come with Jesus.
2. Their bodies will be resurrected.

d. Illus.—Picture when putting the puzzle together

e. Application
i. We have the picture of our future when we look to Jesus.
ii. In the same way that God raised Jesus from the dead, He will raise us.
iii. We can place our hope in the resurrection of Christ that we will also experience that resurrection.
iv. 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

III. ***Hope in Death is Found in Expectation***. vs. 15-17

a. This is the Word of the Lord—this is what Jesus taught.

b. Parousia
i. **John 14:1-4**—encouragement of His return
ii. Coming
1. Alludes to the visit of the Caesar/King
2. Jesus will be making such a visit, not as a child in a manger, but as a King with his army.
iii. At this coming of Christ, those who have died in Christ will be first and then those who are still alive at the Parousia.

c. Details
i. Jesus will descend from Heaven
1. Shouted Command—archangel and trumpet of God
2. With his saints—1 Thess. 3:13
ii. The Dead in Christ will arise first
1. Promised resurrection of those who are asleep in Christ.
2. God will raise them from the dead to join Christ on his approach.
iii. Those who are alive—the remaining ones
1. Caught up—snatched/taken away, can mean violently/quickly
2. Latin word is rapture.
3. Meet in the air—as he is on his way
iv. All—resurrected saints and raptured saints will be with Jesus forever.

d. 1 Cor. 15: 50-52

e. Questions unanswered—when, where, etc.

f. Illus.—Believers' Death is not good-bye, but see you later.

g. Application
i. While sorrowful and grief-stricken, this expectation of a reunion provides great hope and encouragement.
ii. He emphasizes that this future promise provides hope for both those who have died in Christ and for those who are still alive in Christ.
iii. Whether we live or die, we will all be together with Him forever.

IV. ***Hope in Death is Found in Exhortation*** vs. 18

a. Parakalewo==come alongside, encourage, exhort, urge, etc.

b. We are to remind one another about this reality.
c. When should we remind each other?
d. During trials, temptations, tribulations, and death of loved ones in Christ.

Conclusion

- What about the dead in Christ right now?
    - Absent from the body is present with the LORD—**2 Cor. 5:6-8**
    - Thief would be with him in paradise—**Luke 23:43**
    - Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus—**Luke 9:30**
        - The disciples saw them.
        - They were speaking.
        - They were speaking about current events, which mean they had some type of idea.
        - Spoke with Jesus as if friends/buddies.
    - Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus gives us a picture of heaven.
    - Descriptions of Heaven in Revelation are connected to reality.
    - The soul of those who die in Christ/saved, are conscious with Jesus Christ in heaven.
    - At His Parousia/coming, they will be reunited with their resurrection bodies and with the saints.
    - For those who do not believe in this life, their souls are in hell awaiting final judgement.
- **Psalm 116:15**
- What determines which road is what we do with Jesus in this life.

Colossians 2:12 when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, [9] because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him.

John 5:28 Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice [29] and come out-- those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.

1 Corinthians 15:12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. [14] And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. [15] More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. [19] If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. [20] But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. [22] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. [23] But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

John 14:1 "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. [3] If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. [4] You know the way to where I am going."

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1 Corinthians 15:50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

2 Corinthians 5:6 So we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Luke 23:43 And he said to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 9:30 Suddenly, two men were talking with him-- Moses and Elijah. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Psalm 116:15 The death of his faithful ones is valuable in the LORD 's sight.

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I. Hope in Death is Found in E_____
   a. U_____ are hopeless
   b. U_____ are hopeless
   c. U_____ are hopeless
II. Hope in Death is Found in E_____
III. Hope in Death is Found in E_____
IV. Hope in Death is Found in E_____