



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The Saints Triumphant – Where Are They Now? November 14, 2021

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (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. 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. 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. 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. 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. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1. If possible, tell of a time when you had to deal with grief – yours or that of relative or friend. Were you able to find/provide comfort? If so, how?
2. Why do people instinctively fear death?
3. Why do we refer to the believers who die as “saints”? Why do we say they are “triumphant”?

4. Believers and unbelievers alike refer to death as “sleep.” Why might an unbeliever speak this way? What does Paul mean by the “sleep of death”? (v.13)
5. Agree or disagree and why? Paul tells Christians not to grieve.
6. What is meant by Christian “hope”? Explain how verse 14 is the foundation of our Christian hope?
7. The bodies of the saints triumphant “sleep in death.” Verse 14 indicates that the souls or spirits of these saints are alive and well “with Jesus” in heaven. How do the following passages convey this same truth? (Luke 23:43; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59; 2 Corinthians 5:8)
8. In Revelation 20:4, John sees “the souls” of the saints triumphant. How does he describe their heavenly existence? (Note: “came to life” is better translated “lived.”)
9. In what way do the saints triumphant “rest from their labor” (Revelation 14:13)?
10. Saints Triumphant – Where are they now? How would you answer this question in a way that encourages someone who is grieving the death of a fellow Christian?