

# IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians





Scripture Reading:  
**1 THESSALONIANS**  
**4:13 – 18**





When suffering flows together with casualties,  
the current can sweep you away.





# 4 DANGERS OF DESPAIR

1. Ignorance of promise
2. Absence of Hope
3. Discouragement in trial
4. Futility in pursuing godliness



# 2 DITCHES OF PRESUMPTION

## Sentimentality

Everything  
must be  
good  
because  
this  
is so bad



## Cynicism

Everything  
must be  
bad  
because  
this is bad.





**TAKE HOPE AND COURAGE  
KNOWING THE DEAD IN  
CHRIST WILL RISE.**



# **1. THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE LIKE CHRIST**

## **1 Thessalonians 4:14**

**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.**



# CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

**Acts 2:23 – 24**

“...you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.



# TIED TO JESUS

## 1 Thessalonians 4:14

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.

Rom 8:11, 1 Cor 6:14, 2 Cor 4:14



# THE CONDITIONAL CREED

**1 Thessalonians 4:14**

For *if* we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
even so God will bring with Him those who have  
fallen asleep in Jesus.



# CONDITIONAL CREED

2 Timothy 2:11 – 13 NIV

“Here is a trustworthy saying:

*If* we died with him, we will also live with him;

*if* we endure, we will also reign with him.

*If* we disown him, he will also disown us;

*if* we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.



## **2. IN CHRIST, THE RESURRECTION IS A CERTAIN HOPE**

**1 Corinthians 15:3 – 19**

**1 Thessalonians 4:15**

**"According to the Lord's word we tell you..."**



# JESUS TAUGHT A GENERAL RESURRECTION

vs. 15 "We say this to you in a word of the Lord..."

Sadducee trap – Matt. 22, Mark 12, Luke 20

Passing reference – Luke 14

Raising of Lazarus – John 11:21 – 27



**3. THE DEAD IN CHRIST  
ARE NOT LOST TO US**



## 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – 17

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.**

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.



# 4 DANGERS OF DESPAIR

1. Ignorance of promise
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## **4 COURAGE PRODUCING HOPES:**

1. Know the promise
2. Hope in Grief
3. Take courage in suffering
4. Pursue godliness in love



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Sam and Mary Davenport

















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