

- **We will meet the Lord in the air.** ... in our transformed bodies
Historical note: It was customary to receive conquering warriors or emperors by going out to meet them
- **We shall ever be with the Lord:** the glorious and grandiose climax of this event. Forever we will be with the Lord comp. Jn 14:1-6

CONCLUSION: THE PURPOSE OF THIS TEACHING

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

*"The previous passage has suffered much ill as it has been mined to provide clues concerning the timing of the "rapture" of the church. Will this great event occur before seven years of tribulation, in the middle of this period or at the very end? In the haste to answer this question, the purpose of I Thessalonians 4:13-18 is overlooked. **This teaching was presented to comfort those in grief...**"* Gene L Greene – The Pillar NT Commentary -

1. This teaching is for our encouragement, not for debates
2. This teaching is for our exhortation and consolation, not for speculation
3. This teaching is to remind us of what is truly valuable and everlasting

Comp I Co 15:53-55 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH
"HAVING BEEN BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE" – EPHESIANS 2:20

March 6, 2011

Announcements:

1. **Interested in church membership?** Ask Victor or Astrid Hernandez astridenid@gmail.com
2. **Interested in Home Book studies?** Ladies: inquire with Lydia Mederos rom1136@bellsouth.net or Veronica Mullins katronee@bellsouth.net. Men: inquire with Jorge Morales jorgediana@bellsouth.net or Jason Tesser jasontesser@gmail.com. Ladies & Teenagers once a month breakfast (last Saturday of every month)
3. **Ladies Fellowship Dinner:** Tuesday, March 08 at 7 PM. We are going to Bargello Bistro, (305) 232-8878; 8888 SW 136th St, Miami, FL 33176, in the Falls Shopping Center
4. **Reminders:**
Adult Sunday School on Systematic Theology 9:30-10:30 AM
Children & Youth Sunday School by ages: 9:30 – 10:30 AM
Wednesday prayer meeting: 7 PM
Word of Truth: 1080 AM Weekdays 6:45-7:00 AM / 4:45-5:00 PM
Church website: www.cornerstonebiblechurch.com
Theology of Music 1:00-2:00 PM *
* Required for music ministry members, others welcome as auditors

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Call To Worship: Psalm 34:12-19
- Come thou fount of every blessing – Trinity Hymnal #400
- Under The Blood – Projector Screen
- Consecutive Reading: John 21:1-14
- Intercessory Prayer
- Offering: How Great Is Your Faithfulness – Projector Screen
- Worthy of Worship – Projector Screen
- Jesus Paid It All – Projector Screen
- Sermon

OUR LOCATION:	
In The Kendall Area	
www.cornerstonebiblechurch.com	
Address: 12268 S.W. 128th St. Miami, Fl. 33186 305-380-9045 (Pastor Edwin Gonzalez) 305-235-0440 (Directions)	Sunday Schedule: 9:30 AM Study of the Word of God 11:00 AM Preaching of the Word of God Wednesday: 7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting (Prayer flocks meet Every Last Wed.)

I Thessalonians #16
What happens at the end?
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Text: I Thessalonians 4:15-18

Review: the hopeless culture of the Greeks was met by the reassuring words of Paul, when he comforted the Thessalonians with these words 1 Thes 4:13-18

- a) We looked at death, and in particular the death of the righteous
- b) And we considered the resurrection of Christ as the token of ours

The second coming of Christ is the most grandiose event for the human race

Thesis: the second coming of Christ will be the *glorious, climactic, spectacular* and *final event* in human history as we know it today, and it should be a source of comfort and hope for believers of all ages, whether they are dead or alive

Remember: Paul is more concerned with the *fundamentals* about the end-times than with the *incidentals*

Outline: The certainty, priority, universality, finality & purpose of knowing about Jesus' second coming

1. The certainty of Jesus' second coming

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord

- **“By word of the Lord”:** “It is possible that Paul may have designed a general allusion to all that the Lord had said about his coming, but there cannot have been an exclusive reference to that passage... [or] that Paul means that the Lord Jesus had made a special communication to him on the subject.” - Albert Barnes - Comp 2 Pe 1:16-ff

2. The priority of events

“...that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep...”

- Remember the context: grieving beyond measure about those who had died
- Why does Paul include himself in the text by stating “we”?
 - a) Imminence? He was expecting it at any time
 - b) Identification? He was separating Christians asleep from Christians alive
 - c) The truth of the matter is ... “of the day and hour... nobody knows” Mt: 24:36

“The “we” is an affectionate identifying of ourselves with our fellows of all ages, as members of the same body, under the same Head, Christ Jesus” - JFB Commentary -

- Paul did not necessarily believe he was going to be “on earth” at the coming of the Lord 2 Th 2:1-5
- Or, he might have believed it: “The Spirit designed that believers in each successive age should live in continued expectation of the Lord’s coming, not knowing but that *they* should be among those found alive at His coming” – JFB Commentary -
- The marrow of the teaching is: 15 ... we which are alive ... **shall not prevent them which are asleep**. This contrasted both Greek and Rabbinical thought!

Summary: the priority of events, the dead will be risen and transformed first

3. The universality of the occasion

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

- **The Parousia:** “Be hold He is coming with the clouds”. “Every eye shall see Him”. “This Jesus whom you have seen ascend to heaven, will in like manner return from heaven” Acts 1:8 and Mt 24:26-27
- **A commanding shout:** Gene L. Greene writes: “*far from being a secret event, the coming of the Lord will occur amid a great amount of noise as God gives the order for the dead to be raised*”
- **The voice of the archangel:** we are not told which archangel! See Mt 24:30-31
- **The trump of God:** trumpets were used for solemn occasions. This imagery appears in the OT regarding the Day of the Lord Joel 2:1, Zeph 1:15 - not only to signify judgment, but also triumph - Is 27:13, Zec 9:14 -17

Side note: same teaching both in the OT and NT. The NT just expands and makes things clearer, but here’s a little detail which the Jews missed...

- **The dead in Christ will rise first.**

4. The finality of the event

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- **We will all be suddenly transformed**
The language of being caught up denotes a *violent, powerful and external removal*. I Co 15: 51-52