

A Disheartened?

- ❖ The only afterlife that Paul knew about starts after the resurrection. Therefore, he was sure that there wouldn't be any hope for the dead if resurrection was not real (1 Corinthians 15:16, 18).
- ❖ Our hope is not built on this short life. Thanks to Jesus, a sinless eternal life awaits. We lose everything we lose sight of this truth.

B Tired of waiting?

- ❖ Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised that He would come again (John 14:1-3). It's the last promise written in the Bible (Revelation 22:20). However, it's been almost two thousand years. Are you tired of waiting?
- ❖ When Jesus comes back, we will feel like that it's been a blink since we died. Think about Adam and Eve. For them, Jesus is not taking six thousand years to come because they're not currently aware that time goes by.
- ❖ We don't know when He will come back, but He will.

C Are we immortal?

- ❖ Jesus highlighted three concepts about eternal life in the synagogue at Capernaum:
 - He is the bread that "gives life to the world" (John 6:33)
 - We get eternal life by believing in Him (John 6:35)
 - We will receive eternal life at the resurrection (John 6:39-40, 44, 54)
- ❖ Even those who believe in Jesus (and have eternal life) are subject to death. We will receive immortality when we're resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:52-53). Therefore, those who don't believe in Jesus are not immortal and will never be.
- ❖ Immortality is a gift given to those who take the "living bread" today (John 6:51)

D Do we need to be resurrected?

- ❖ Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know the truth about "those who have fallen asleep." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- ❖ Those who defend the immortality of the soul use the expression "God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:14) to affirm that the souls of the dead will come with Jesus to receive their physical body.
- ❖ If that were true, why would they need to be resurrected? If they're already with Jesus, they don't need to be resurrected and ascend to Heaven to be with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- ❖ The hope of the resurrection would become useless if those who have died were already living with Jesus. Our consolation resides in the resurrection.

E Will we be secretly raptured?

- ❖ Many Christians believe in a "secret rapture" that's supposed to take place before the Second Coming, when the faithful will be transformed and taken to Jesus, while the rest of people will remain on Earth. This is based on an interpretation of 1 Corinthians 15:51 and other texts.
- ❖ However, Paul was clear about when both the dead and the living saints will be transformed:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16. A "last trumpet" will announce the event, and God Himself will call the dead. Too noisy to be a secret event.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Both the living and the resurrected will be caught up.
- ❖ This event is not called "the rapture" but "the coming of the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:15).