



Purley Baptist Church

Discipleship Guide 17th May 2020

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

This Week's BIG IDEA: In the time between planting the church in Thessalonica and writing Paul's letter, believers had died. The church was disturbed by this reality and had questions for Paul. Paul writes to the church to reassure them of the fate of all believers. There is a hope for all Christians that they will be reunited with other believers when Jesus returns. The basis of all Christian hope is that we worship a person who came back from death thereby setting a precedent for all believers.

CONNECT IN:

Here's some ice breaker questions you might want to use this week:

- What is the one thing you want to accomplish next week?
- If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future, or in the past, would you visit?

CONNECT UP: Fix your eyes on God and give him an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

Starter... Just like Pepper longs to be reunited with Naomi What do your non-Christian friends look forward to? How do they express a long-term hope?

Read the passage 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. What is the basis of our Christian hope? (4:13-14)
2. Among some Christian groups, it is popular to believe that Christians will be secretly raptured from the earth years before Jesus returns. Does what Paul state in vv.15-17 differ from this perspective?
3. What sequence of events will happen when Jesus returns (v.16 &17)?
4. What do you think the Thessalonians/Purley Baptist were/is meant to do with this teaching? (v.18)

CONNECT OUT as a group to serve the world around you

- 1) How should the promise of Jesus' return shape our beliefs and behaviour as Christians?
- 2) What difference does the hope of Christ's return make to how we think about:
(a) personal suffering (b) material things?

Heartbeat

This week, let's pray particularly for issues facing our Church.

Pray for:

58:12

- For patience and peace as we continue to wait for the enquiry result, knowing it is in God's hands.
- For the 58:12 committee and the leadership team-for wisdom, courage, vision and discernment for the future.
- For Thornsett. Give thanks for their ongoing commitment to the project and pray for them.

Church life

- For our ministers as they continue to pastor and lead our Church. For resilience, encouragement, protection, closeness to God.
- For the staff. For those on furlough-peace and encouragement. For those working to support the Church; strength, wisdom, provision, fresh ideas in problem solving as lockdown is slowly lifted.
- Church groups-as they adapt and develop ways to stay connected and minister. E.g. youth and children groups, Family work, Life groups.
- Take a moment to name Church family members before God, especially those you know who are unwell, grieving, finding life particularly hard at present.

Use the following verse to praise God and pray blessing over our Church.

Eph 3:20 'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Upcoming meet ups:

- **UNITE714 continues to be held every Wednesday between 7-7:30pm.** A Link and notes will be sent out.
- **Sunday at 7(pm).** Join us once again on **24th May** for an interactive live service: <https://www.facebook.com/purleybaptistchurch.pbc/> We are praying it will be an exciting time and that we will enjoy the Lord's presence and have a greater sense of being together.