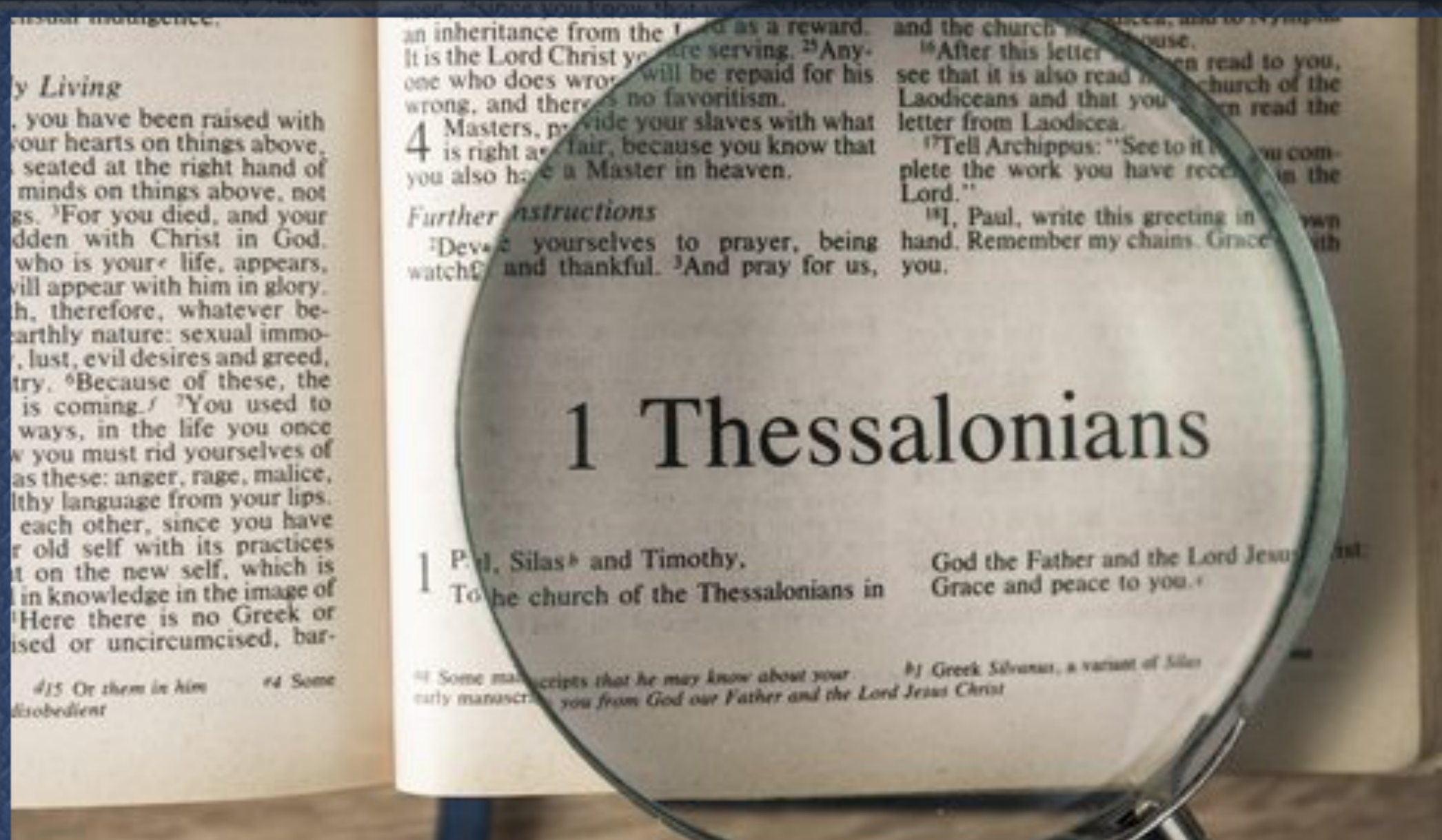


# Lesson 7



*"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*  
*(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*



## **I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>

Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## *Jesus Is Coming Again (4:13-18)*



*Paul has  
referenced  
this great  
event 3  
times  
previously*

- ◆ 1:10 - and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- ◆ 2:19 - For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
- ◆ 3:13 - so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## *Jesus Is Coming Again (4:13-18)*

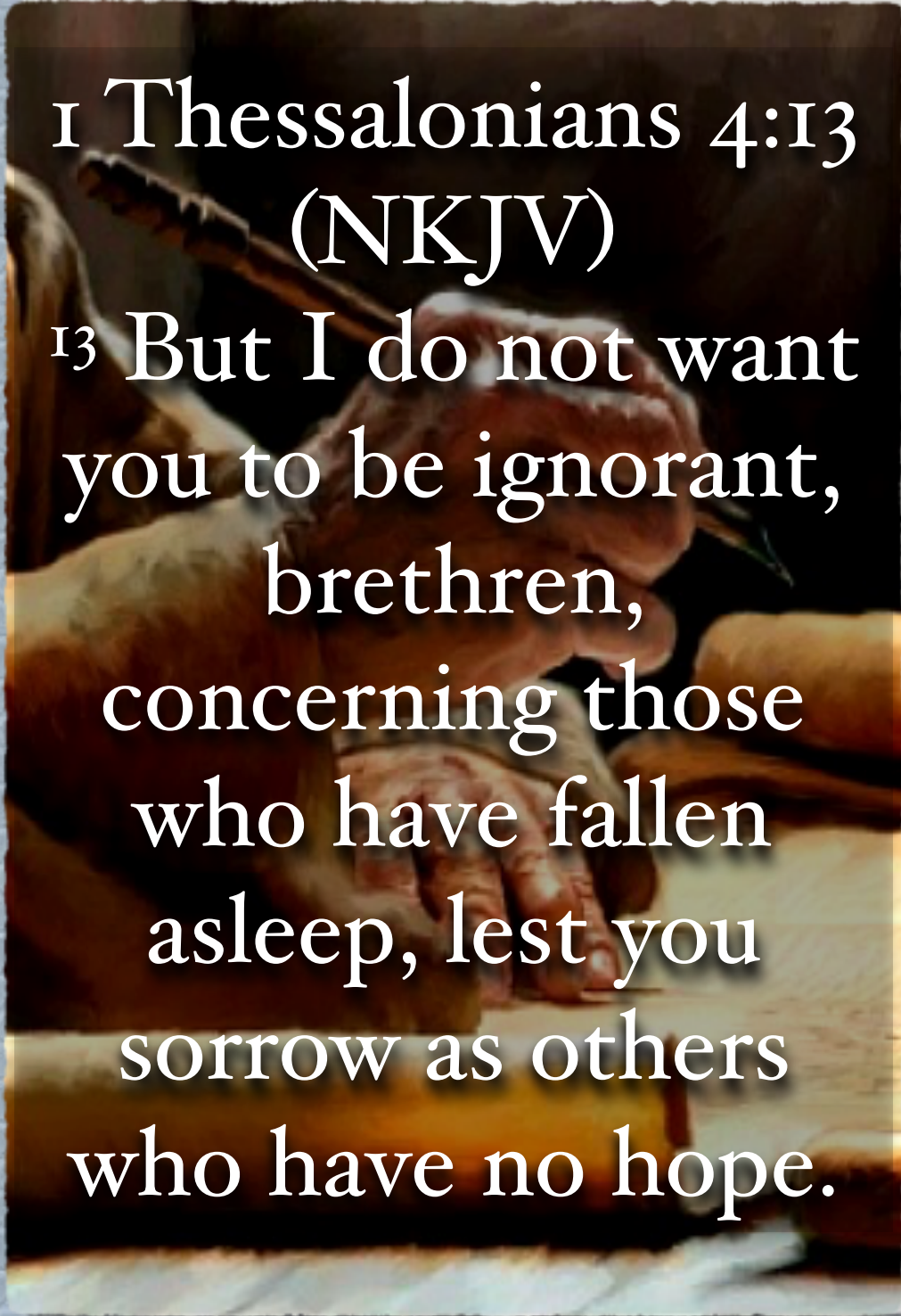
*Paul has  
referenced  
this great  
event 3  
times  
previously*

- ◆ Does the thought of Jesus' return stir thoughts of comfort or dread?
- ◆ These words are written to those in Christ, concerning those in Christ, (*dead or alive*), and NOT concerning those who are lost. (*their end is referenced in other passages - John 5:28,29; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Mat. 25:31-46; Rev. 21:8; etc.*)



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## *Dispelling Their Grief (4:13-15)*



1 Thessalonians 4:13  
(NKJV)

13 But I do not want  
you to be ignorant,  
brethren,  
concerning those  
who have fallen  
asleep, lest you  
sorrow as others  
who have no hope.

- ♦ ***"I do not want you to be ignorant"*** — A common expression of Paul — (*Rom. 1:13; 11:25; 1 Cor. 10:1; 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8*)
- ♦ ***"concerning those who have fallen asleep"*** — i.e., Christians who have died. — (*Luke 16:19ff; 23:43; Jn 11:11-13; 1 Cor. 15:20,51*).
- ♦ ***"Lest you sorrow"*** — Paul is not forbidding sorrow, but they should not grieve, (ESV) like those who have no hope — (*Ep. 2:12*)



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## ***Dispelling Their Grief (4:13-15)***

1 Thessalonians 4:14  
(NKJV)

14 For if we believe  
that Jesus died  
and rose again,  
even so God will  
bring with Him  
those who sleep in  
Jesus.

- ◆ ***"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again"*** — the fundamental and foundational stone of Christianity — (1 Cor 15:1-3, 17-19, 23; 2 Cor. 4:13,14).
- ◆ ***"Even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus"*** — Hades will be emptied, and the deceased will be reunited with their resurrected & glorified bodies in the same realm and time that the living are changed — (3:13; 2 Thes 2:1; 1 Cor. 15:23; Phil 3:20,21)



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## *Dispelling Their Grief (4:13-15)*

1 Thessalonians 4:15  
(NKJV)

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

- ◆ ***"By the word of the Lord"*** —  
"Thus says the Lord" - these are the words of God — (*Gal. 1:12; 2:2; Eph. 3:3; Micah 1:1; Hos. 1:1; Jer. 1:2; Lk 3:2*).
- ◆ ***"We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord"*** —
  - ◆ *"We" does NOT imply Paul expected Jesus to come in his lifetime — (1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:11,14; 5:1)*
  - ◆ *"Coming" [Gk "parousia"] lit. presence - same term used in 2Pe 3:12; 2Th 2:8*



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## *The Manner of Jesus' Return (4:16-17)*

1 Thessalonians 4:16  
(NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

- ◆ ***"The Lord Himself"*** — The Lord Himself will PERSONALLY return from heaven — (*Acts 1:11; Mat 16:27; 25:31; 2 Thes. 1:7; Rev 1:7*).
- ◆ ***"with the voice of an archangel"*** — (*Jude 9,14; Mat 13:41; 25:31; Mk 8:38; 2 Thes. 1:7*)
- ◆ ***"with the trumpet of God"*** — *the last trumpet* — (1 Co. 15:52.)
- ◆ ***"the dead in Christ will rise first"*** — *They will not be left behind, and neither will they be left out.* — (cf. 1 Co. 15:23, 51, 52)



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## *The Manner of Jesus' Return (4:16-17)*

1 Thessalonians 4:17  
(NKJV)

17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

◆ **"Then" —**

- ◆ **When the Lord Himself PERSONALLY returns from heaven** — (*Acts 1:11; Mat 16:27; 25:31; 2 Thes. 1:7; Rev 1:7; 1 Cor. 15:23*).
- ◆ **After the dead in Christ arise**, i.e., the the resurrection — (*1 Cor. 15:22, 51,52; John 5:25,28,29*)
- ◆ **"Those living will be changed"** *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye* — (*cf. 1 Co. 15:51, 52*)
- ◆ **"At the LAST trumpet"** — (*1 Co. 15:52-54; Phili 3:21; John 5:28,29*)



# *"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## ***The Manner of Jesus' Return (4:16-17)***

1 Thessalonians 4:17  
(NKJV)

17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

♦ ***"Then"*** —

♦ ***"Caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"*** — (2 Thes. 2:1; John 14:3).

♦ ***"And thus we shall always be with the Lord"*** i.e., in this manner, we will be with the Lord always — (John 14:3; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 1 Pet 1:3,4)



# THE LAST TRUMP

## Biblical Descriptions Of Jesus' Return -



- ✧ **With noise** – shout, voice of the archangel & the trumpet of God – 1 Thess. 4:16
- ✧ **With His holy angels** – Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7–8
- ✧ **Suddenly and unexpected** – 1 Thess. 5:1–4; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 22:20
- ✧ **Visibly** – Acts 1:9–11; Rev. 1:7 “and every eye will see Him” –



# THE LAST TRUMP

## Things That Will Occur When Jesus Returns



- \* Raise ALL the dead on the LAST DAY – John 5:28,29; 6:39,40,54; 11:24
- \* Judge The World on the last day – Ac 17:30–31; Mat 25:31–32; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev. 20:12; Rom. 2:16; John 12:48
- \* Glorify Saints – Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:20–21; 1 Cor. 15:51–52; Rev. 22:14; Matt. 25:46



# THE LAST TRUMP

## Things That Will Occur When Jesus Returns



- ✧ Punish wicked – 2 Thess. 1:7–9 – Matt. 25:41,46; Rev. 20:10; Rev 21:8
- ✧ Destroy present order and establish new heavens and new earth – 2 Pet. 3:10–13; Heb. 11:13–16; Rev. 22:14
- ✧ Deliver Kingdom to Father – 1 Cor. 15:23–28



*"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## ***Jesus Is Coming Again (4:13-18)***



**1 Thessalonians 4:18  
(NKJV)**

**18 Therefore  
comfort one  
another with  
these words.**



*"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*

## ***Jesus Is Coming Again (4:13-18)***



Does the thought of  
Jesus' return stir  
thoughts of comfort  
or dread?

**Are YOU Ready?**

In Christ? Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27;

Faithful? 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 3:10-14







# Lesson 7

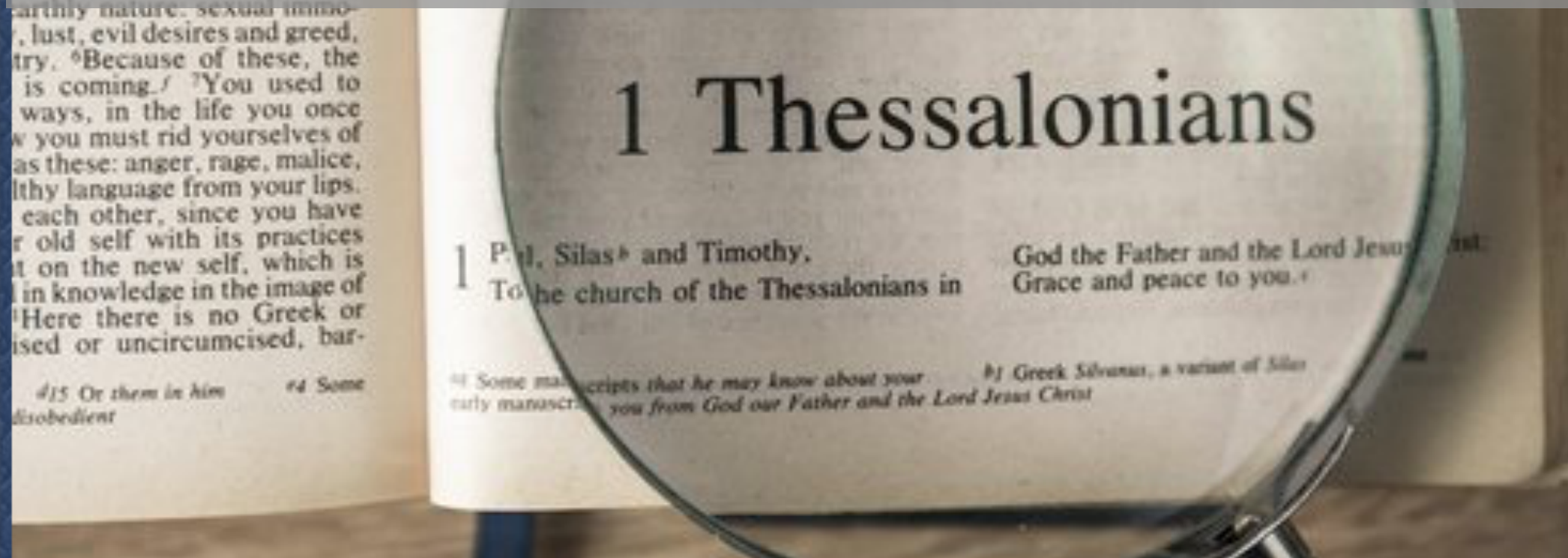
**Charts by Don McClain** / Preached July 30, 2017

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 /

501-568-1062 / Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

Prepared using Keynote 2014 – More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/>



*"The Comfort of Christ's Coming"*  
*(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*



# 1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58 (NKJV)

<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.



# 1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58 (NKJV)

<sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*" <sup>55</sup> "*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.