

Knowledge Brings Comfort

- *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.*
- *14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*
- *18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Th. 4:13-14; 18*

Once Asked: How Do We Know?

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, **believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.** 8 Love never fails.*

1Cor. 13:4-8

God wants us to put the best possible outcome based on the facts we have.

Lest you sorrow as others who have no hope

- ▣ God doesn't want us to sorrow as others
- ▣ He wants us to be comforted.
- ▣ With these words.
- ▣ There are many words of comfort in the Scriptures.
- ▣ We will consider some of them today to ease the pain and sorrow of our loss.

Two Attitudes that Bring Comfort

- One is for us and the other is for them.
- *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Th. 4:13-14; 18*
- We will see them again.
- At the second coming, all will be restored and we will be together.
- This is NOT a PERMANENT separation.
- It is only TEMPORARY.

Two Outlooks that Bring Comfort

- ▣ Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jn 11:21-27

Today ... In Paradise

- *And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” 43 And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” Lk. 23:42-43*
- What did Jesus mean by these words?
- Come down and take to a beautiful park?
- They died that very day.
- How did Jesus keep this promise to Him?

Just an Extension of His Other Words

- *Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."*
John 8:51
- Jesus had already revealed that death is only seen by the living... those who are dying who were keeping His word do not see death.
- What do they see?
- **THEY SEE PARADISE!**

What is Paradise?

- Jesus often quoted from the Greek translation
- In the Greek Septuagint, the word paradise is used only of the garden of Eden, where the word garden is translated paradise.
- One could argue Jesus did not expect to be understood as speaking of that paradise, but they cannot doubt that Jesus used a word for a beautiful place.
- One thing is certain ... When Jesus told the thief where they would be that day, He used the word for a beautiful park like setting

Paul also went there

- *I will come to visions and revelations:*
 - *fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows*
 - *caught up to the third heaven.*
 - *whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows —*
 - *was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2 Cor 12:1-5*

Not Lawful, but still expressed feelings

- *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Phil 1:21-24*
- Paul's perspective of death was molded by what he saw.
- To die is Gain To die is very far better

Abraham's Bosom

- *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:22*
- *And Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. Lk 23:43*
- *Jesus was in Hades Acts 2:26-27, 31*
- *Paul was caught up to paradise 2Cor 12:1-4, 7*
- *concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Mt. 22:31-33*
- Where were they – Sheol / Hades / Paradise

Died and Carried by Angels

- Perfectly fits with Jesus New Teaching:
- *If anyone keeps My word He will never see death. Jn. 8:51*
- *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Jn 11:*
- When the angels come and carry, we are not seeing death... Even though we die we shall live... Lazarus in comfort... shall never die!

Moses & Elijah

- *As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*

Luke 9:29-31

- Were already there.
- Not only is place better, but body is now in glory.
- Still men... Still working for the Lord... Still learning...

Sorrow Not as the Rest

- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the **inward man is being renewed day by day.** 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us **a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory** 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but **the things which are not seen are eternal** 2 Cor 4:16-18*