

August, 2013



Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

**What is ultimate hope of every believer?** Sometimes in the midst of immense tragedy when lives are lost or a love one succumbs to disease, this question is asked or is on our minds.

Paul reminded the Thessalonians that they have hope in *1 Thes. 4:13*, "*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.*" Hundreds of years later, we have the **same hope**.

Our hope is **based on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**. Paul continues in *1 Thes. 4:14*, "*For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*" The term 'fallen asleep' is refer to believers who have die. Since Jesus die and rose again, God the Father will bring believers who have die with Jesus to himself.

When this event happens, Paul says in *1 Thes. 4*, "*According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.*" When Jesus comes again for believers, **there is a priority** – dead believers will go before believers who are still alive. Further, *1 Thes. 4:16*, "*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*" When the Lord comes, we'll know, because **we'll hear** his command, the voice of an archangel, and a trumpet call. Finally, *1 Thes. 4:17*, "*After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*" Believers who are living and breathing are caught up together with dead believers, and together we'll meet Jesus. This is our hope realized – we will be with Jesus forever!

Finally, Paul reminds us all to 'therefore encourage one another with these words (*1 Thes. 4:18*).' When our life on earth ends, it is not the end of our life! **What an encouragement!** This is our ultimate hope!

God Bless,

Pastor and Helen Moy

2013 年八月

親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹，



### 每一個信徒最終的希望是什麼？

有時在遇到一個大的悲劇當中，當有人失去生命，或一個所愛的人被疾病折磨，我們會問這問題，或會有這個想法。

保羅在帖撒羅尼迦前書，提醒信徒他們是有希望的，在帖撒羅尼迦前書四章十三節提到“論到睡了的人、我們不願意弟兄們不知道、恐怕你們憂傷、像那些沒有指望的人一樣”。原來人早已有這問題和想法。

我們的希望是基於我們的**救主耶穌基督**。保羅繼續帖撒羅尼迦前書 4:14 說：“我們若信耶穌死而復活了、那已經在耶穌裡睡了的人、神也必將他與耶穌一同帶來。”經文‘睡著了’是指已死的信徒。由於耶穌死而復活，父神就將已死的信徒與耶穌一起帶到祂那裏。

當這件事發生，保羅在帖前 4:15 說到”我們現在照主的話告訴你們一件事·我們這活著還存留到主降臨的人、斷不能在那已經睡了的人之先”當耶穌再來時，已死信徒是比活著的信徒優先復活。進一步在 4:16 節“因為主必親自從天降臨、有呼叫的聲音、和天使長的聲音、又有神的號吹響·那在基督裡死了的人必先復活。”當主再來，我們就會知道，因為我們將聽祂的號令，天使長的聲音，又有神的號吹響。最後帖撒羅尼迦前書 4:17 節”以後我們這活著還存留的人、必和他們一同被提到雲裡、在空中與主相遇·這樣、我們就要和主永遠同在。”仍活著的信徒，將與已死的信徒會合一起與主相遇，這是我們希望實現，我們將永遠與主耶穌一起！

最後，保羅提醒我們”所以你們當用這些話彼此勸慰。”當我們世上的生命結束時，我們的生命竟還沒有結束！**多麼令人鼓舞**，這是我們最終的希望！

願主祝福你們，

梅牧師和師母