

LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD - "GRIEVE WITH HOPE "
I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

1. How much do your expectations (about anything) drive your daily feelings and actions?
2. Think of a loss from your life experience that you grieve about, to one extent or another. How does the promise of Christ's return as explained in the passage address that grief? If you thought more frequently about his return, would it change your experience of grieving in the present?
3. What is the experience of the Christian between the time of physical death and the time of Christ's return?
4. The passage provides wondrous, specific details about the future. This description of the Lord's return gives us Christians reasons for a confident hope that changes our everyday perspective on living. How do you expect you will feel when these things actually take place and you see them with your (physical!) eyes?
5. Verse 17 says that "we will always be with the Lord." Are we not always with the Lord today? How does Paul mean that we will be "with" Christ starting at his return in a way that we are not "with" him now?
6. How frequently do you think we Christians "encourage one another with these words," as verse 18 commands? Describe how you might put this command into practice in a way that is sincere and effective with your fellow believers.