

## **Suggested Discussion Questions for 10/15/2023**

### **Message: Thriving with the Thessalonians, pt 8 (1 Thes. 4:13-18)**

1. When you think about the return of Jesus, what images come to mind?
2. Paul seems to be answering a question that had arisen in the church. What in the text indicates this? What factors in their setting contributed to their uncertainty?
3. Read the passage slowly. What key words pop out at you? Why?
4. How does the reality of resurrection bring hope and comfort according to this passage? What other passage(s) support your conclusion?
5. If the Scripture did not promise the return of Christ, how would it impact our assurance and comfort in the face of the death of our loved ones?
6. Why is the term “asleep” a good and reasonable substitute for “death” in this passage? What are some other passages that use the same term for death? How do they help your understanding in this text?
7. Talk through the 5 steps Paul notes in the return of Christ. Why is each significant? How do they combine to establish our hope?
8. How have you been personally encouraged by these truths? Have you ever been able to encourage others with it? How?
9. Dig a little deeper if you want (but no arguments): How do those who hold the pre-tribulational and post-tribulational views of the timing of Christ’s return understand this passage to support their conviction?
10. What else would you like to discuss on this passage that hasn’t yet been addressed?