



1

Like a thief in the night

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

⁹ Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

2

Like a thief in the night

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

3

Like a thief in the night Love

Every Christian Will Rise to Meet Jesus In the Air

- The Thessalonians knew Jesus was coming but would Christians who'd already died miss the resurrection?
- No! They'll be the first to rise and meet Jesus in the air (verses 13-15)
- Our bodies will also rise glorified when Jesus returns (verses 16-17)
- It will be sudden and instant – the word is "Rapture"
- Be encouraged by this in difficult times (verse 18)!

4

Like a thief in the night Love

In the Meantime, Live Quietly & Love Extravagantly

- Increase in real, practical love for other believers
- There's always room to grow in love (verses 9-10)!
- Live quietly while loving extravagantly, NOT the other way around (verses 11-12)!
- Work hard and with integrity if you're able

5

Like a thief in the night Love

Love In the Age of Rapture Demands Urgency In Sharing the Gospel

- Those who don't know Jesus need the same comfort and hope we have
- Time is running out!
- Life is fragile and Jesus may return
- We must urgently do more to reach those far from God – individually and as a church
- What are you willing and able to do?

6
