

# SERMON LISTENING WORKSHEET

**Date:** April 20, 2025

**Passage:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Focus:** “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep... so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”

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## Some Key Quotes

- “Jesus went out to face this monster [death]—and He won.”
  - “God has told us what happens. We are not ignorant... Death is the great known.”
  - “You have something in the future mind-blowingly good that God is going to do through Jesus.”
  - “Jesus died to take our punishment so you could be forgiven. And he came back to life and rose so you could rise again.”
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## Some Important Concepts

### 1. Christians Grieve Differently—Because of Hope

Paul’s goal in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is to help believers **grieve with hope**. While **grief is natural**, Christians should process the death of those in Christ differently because we **know the end of the story**—resurrection and eternal life with Jesus.

“We do not want you to be uninformed... that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”

### 2. Death Is Not the End—It’s Sleep for the Body

For Christians, death isn’t final. The **soul goes to be with Christ**, and the **body will one day wake up**—just like Jesus’ body did.

“Jesus died and rose again... even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.”

### 3. The Resurrection of Jesus Changes Everything

The resurrection of Jesus is a **historical, physical, world-changing event**. It’s **proof** that death is defeated. Because Jesus rose, **we will too**. Our resurrection is tied directly to His.

“If Jesus really rose from the dead, then you know everything is going to be all right in the end.” (Tim Keller)

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## Some Questions To Think About

1. Why does Paul want Christians to be informed about death?
  2. What does it mean to “grieve as others do who have no hope”? How is Christian grief different?
  3. How does Paul use the metaphor of sleep to describe death? What does that communicate?
  4. Why is it important that Paul refers to Jesus’ *death and resurrection* when comforting grieving Christians?
  5. How does knowing what happens after death shape the way we live now?
  6. What are some common cultural ways people try to avoid thinking about death? Do any of those tempt you?
  7. How does believing in the resurrection of Jesus affect your perspective on your own death—or the death of a loved one?
  8. In what ways can grief reflect love and mercy, rather than a lack of faith?
  9. Why is it significant that Jesus rose from the dead *three days* later, rather than waiting until the final resurrection?
  10. What are practical ways we can “encourage one another with these words” in times of grief?
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## A Simple Sermon Summary

### I. Introduction:

- Easter: life, resurrection, and hope
- But first, facing the hard truth: **Death is terrible**
- Human response to death: often avoidance and distraction
- Scripture commands us to consider death

### IV. The Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

- Paul’s thesis: **“We don’t want you to be uninformed... so you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”** He affirms: grief is natural, but Christian grief is different

### V. Why Christians Grieve Differently

1. **Because We Are Informed**
2. **Because Death is More Like Sleep**
3. **Because We Have Real Hope**
4. **Because We Believe**
5. **Because of the Resurrection of Jesus**
6. **Because Our Resurrection Is Tied to His**
7. **Because When Jesus Returns We will all be with Jesus Forever**

### VI. Final Encouragement and Application

- You will only be able to respond to death differently if you desire to be with Jesus.
- Desiring to be with Jesus, begins with seeking to know Him now.

