

Introduction

Jesus or Doctrine?! - Case Study: 1 Thessalonians

Context:

- The Second Coming closes every chapter (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11)
- Confirmation of knowledge (1 Thess 1:4, 8; 2:1, 2, 5, 10; 3:4; 4:2, 5, 9)

1 Thess 4:13

cemetery: koimaterion - koimao - sleeping - Germany: Buxheim story

Gen 2:7: "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." *nephesh* (animals in Gen 1:30!)

1 Thess 4:14

if options: 1) 50/50 2) 0/100 3) 100% = "since" 4) "I wished" NIV: "For we believe . . ."

Assumption: "since we believe that Jesus died and rose again"

Corollary: "even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in/through Jesus"

As Christ, so the Christian

"Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you." (2Cor 4:14)

1 Thess 4:15 "by the word of the Lord"

- 1) Mt 24:30f; Jn 6:39
- 2) Agraphon (not recorded in canon)
- 3) Special Revelation
- 4) Generic essence of Gospel Spirit

1 Thess 4:16 "shout, voice, trumpet of God"

"So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city" (Jos 6:20).

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor 15:51).

“God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet” (Ps 47:5).

1 Thess 4:17 “caught up - air - always”

“caught up” (Acts 8:39 Philip; 23:10 Paul; 2 Cor 12:2, 4 Paul; Rev 12:5 Jesus!)

Plutarch: “snatched away from opportunity for education, marriage, citizenship, and so on”

air: “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power **of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph 2:2)

“and so”: to be with Jesus after you die requires a resurrection that will only happen at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

John 14:1-3!

1 Thess 4:18

Correct Theology → Caring Touch

“Irene to Taonnophris and Philo, good comfort. I am as sorry and weep over the departed one as I wept for Didymas. And all things, whatsoever were befitting, I have done, and all mine, Epaphroditus and Thermuthion and Philion and Apollonius and Plantas. But, nevertheless, against such things one can do nothing. **Therefore comfort one another.**” - *Oxyrhynchus Papyrus, Egypt - 2nd c. A.D.*

Jesus or Doctrine?

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that **Jesus** died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in **Jesus** will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the **Lord**, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the **Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the **Lord** himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in **Christ** shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the **Lord** in the air: and so shall we ever be with the **Lord**.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- Tony Evans (Urban Alternative): “There is no death”
- Ingo, US 1986: “he would have enjoyed that”
- Baptist Seminary: “something would happen”

It's not the death of doctrine - it's the doctrine of death that promises life!