

Now my Bible says "shall not precede" - that makes sense. But in my Bible there are two little lines before and after that word "precede", two little letters gg, and you look up in the margin by gg and it says KJV "prevent", so in the KJV it says "shall not prevent" them who are asleep. What sense does that make? It means absolutely nothing to anybody living today. As if we would stop those who are asleep, hold them back. That's what prevent means today. To keep it from happening. But prevent in the time of the KJV was made meant to precede. Today the word has changed its meaning. Another word has taken its place.

So when we revised this Scofield Bible, we put this word precede instead of prevent so people would know exactly what Paul said. Instead of the way it was translated 300 years ago by a word that does not mean that anymore today. We will not precede those who are asleep. Evidently those Thessalonians were worried. They said, Jesus is coming back soon. Isn't it wonderful, we are going to see Him and be with Him when he comes. But poor old Uncle John here he's died, and he won't have a chance to see Jesus when he comes. It's sad.

Paul says, Don't be worried. When Jesus comes back Uncle John is going to come with him. You won't precede Uncle John, he won't precede you. You'll both be raised up together. The resurrection is the great hope of the Christian. When is this going to happen?

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. The first thing that happens when Jesus comes back, all those who died in the Lord are going to be raised up into life again. They are going to come to life. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so will be ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. This is Paul's word of comfort.

Alas I've rarely had a funeral and hear the comfort ~~given~~ given to the people in the words that Paul said he used to comfort people when their loved ones died. Paul said this is the way to comfort. Tell them that this one who died is going to be raised up, and he together with those of us who may still be living at that time are going to be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

That's about as clear language as you can find anywhere in Scripture. This is not a symbolic, involved section of Scripture. It's a very clear plain presentation of a teaching. Yet church after church has gone year after year and never a sermon on the rapture of the church. How the Lord must grieve. He says, All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. He wants us to learn all the truths of the Scripture and this one is so clearly expressed here. It is important for us to know about the rapture of the church. My what an experience that's going to me. One minute we're here. Perhaps in this meeting just talking. Perhaps sleeping in the middle of the night. Perhaps just walking down the street. Perhaps in the middle of your work.