

Those that know Christ and die in the Lord will be raised from the dead with Jesus Christ. They will have resurrection bodies even as He has. No more of the pain and suffering of this earth. No more of the weakness that all of us feel at times. No more of the miseries that we go through here. The curse will be entirely removed. We will be free from the imperfections and yet have all that is good about these bodies that we enjoy here.

It is resurrection that we look forward to. Not just some disembodied spirit state. Paul said to go and be with Christ is far better and it is. The state with him is better than anything we have here in this life, but that is not the thing that we look forward to. We look forward to the glorious resurrection that is promised to us. It is an unnatural state to be separated from the body. Far better to be separated from the body and to be with the Lord than to be in the body and in the sinful conditions and situations of this life. Yes, but far better that that, that which is promised to us -- the resurrection body, the wonderful thing that is ahead.

But now when we come to the next verse, vs. 15, we find a situation which would not be understood by the average Christian, at least by the average professing Christian today. There was a special problem to these Thess. Christians. These people were looking forward impatiently to the return of Christ. They were expecting that it might come very soon. As you read the N.T., and as you read the history of the early church, that is one thing that is very clear in it, that they were expecting their Lord to come very soon. They did not have any permanent home here at present, but they were looking forward to the establishment of His wonderful Kingdom when he would come back. And so these Thess. had a special problem. We are looking forward with such great joy to our Lord's coming, and these people have died. Are they going to be left out? Do they lose out on this blessed hope, this blessed thing to which we are looking forward? And so Paul gave them the answer here in vs. 15: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord". Now why did he put in those words there, "by the word of the Lord"? Everything Paul gave us is the word of the Lord. Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit. He was kept free from error in everything he wrote. But Paul says this we say by the word of the Lord. This is something