

# 3 10/11/72 chapel 1 Thess. 4:13-18

that God has revealed directly to me. This is a glimpse of the fut. that you might find suggested elsewhere in the Scripture. You might find that by putting Scripture together you could gain this truth but here it is explained more clearly and more fully than anywhere else in the Scripture because God, Paul said, has given me a special revelation by the word of the Lord to present to you. Now when Paul has a special rev. from God to give to us we can be sure it is something of real importance. It is something to which we should pay very great heed. "This we say unto you by the word of the Lord that we which are ~~live~~ alive .....not precede them which are asleep." The Old Eng. says "prevent". We read elsewhere, "I prevented the dawning of the morning with my prayers." Well, I don't think the Psalmist stopped the morning from dawning and made the night continue extra hours. That simply is the fact that 300 yrs. ago when this was trans. the word "prevent" which literally is the Lat. "come before" <sup>meant</sup> exactly what precede means today and prevent has now become specialized to mean. "you put your foot in front of it so ~~it~~ it can't come any further." You ~~prevent~~ ~~it~~. come before it. But prevent doesn't fit here any more. "precede" is what it means. We shall not precede them. Don't worry about your folks that died, that they will be left out. You are not going to be ahead of them because you live longer. You and they are going to share if you live unto the coming of the Lord.

Now some people say Paul was mistaken. He said We which remain unto the coming of the Lord and of course he did not. He was mistaken. No. Paul means any who continue live unto the coming of the Lord. unto it. Paul did not know he would continue unto it. But he also did not ~~live~~ know with certainty that he would not live unto the coming of the Lord. Because when Jesus Christ ~~went~~ went into heaven he told his people to watch and to be ready for ye know ~~not~~ not when the Lord will come. In such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. But here only we are given ~~some~~ some of these precise details that enable us to envision that marvellous event more clearly than before. We read, "For the Lord Himself shall descend . . . meet the Lord in the clouds." Matthew Arnold writing 300 yrs. ago referred to this passage as "this rapture of the church." Now today the term "rapture" <sup>T</sup> And means great joy, great happiness. But surely there is not greater happiness any of us can ~~every~~ have than the happiness we will have when Jesus Christ comes back.