

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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**"What Happens When I Die?"*****Discussion Questions***

1. What are some of the common cultural expectations for what happens when we die? What are the primary sources and assumptions behind those expectations?
2. According to 1 Corinthians 15:12-24, what is the ultimate promise that awaits those in Christ? Is this a new idea to you?
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:23, Colossians 3:1-4 and Revelation 21:1-4 all refer to Christ's "second coming". According to these scriptures, what will happen when Christ returns?
4. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What does Jesus teach about the idea of a final judgment? What will happen during that judgment?
5. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 and Luke 23:39-43 are commonly thought to describe an intermediate stage for those who die in Christ prior to his return and our eventual resurrection. How does this idea, along with the promise of Christ's return to earth, a final judgment and our own resurrection change or challenge your understanding of what happens when we die?
6. As you reflect upon this understanding of death -- what might be some implications for our lives before we die?

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If you would like to discuss the subject of death and what happens after death further with Pastor Jim, feel free to email him at [jbirchfield@fpchouston.org](mailto:jbirchfield@fpchouston.org)

In addition, here is are some other resources on the subject:

*Heaven*, by Randy Alcorn  
*Surprised by Hope*, by N.T. Wright (specifically, chapters 8-11)