

PEOPLE WITH HOPE

I Thess. 4

What do we do when someone close to us dies and we know that life will never be the same again?

What is the relationship between the resurrection of Christ and your own personal hope?

"The American Way Of Death" by J. Mitford points out that death has become a multimillion dollar business. Families spend hundreds of dollars on funeral expenses. A well "cosmetized" body is what we stress. Have you attended any recent funeral services. What kind of message was given?

Burtrand Russell said, "When he died, he would rot and that nothing of his ego would survive." Do you agree?

I. AFFECTION - I Thess. 4:1-10

1. Summons To Purity - V. 1-8

V. 1-2 - Instruction for his readers.

V. 3-5 - Why does Paul go at lengths concerning sexual purity?

(1st 520 years in Rome as republic not one single divorce, but now morality was dead. Instances of woman with eight husbands in five years.)

Can you imagine a society in which sexual acts were considered an exercise of worship?

V. 7-8 - What is clearly taught?

2. Love From God - V. 9

Is there ever a point at which we can stop growing in love?

3. Love To Men - V. 10 I Cor. 13:8

II. AMBITION - 4:11-12

1. Industry - V. 11

Why is it important to center your attention on your own affairs? (Note: Study to be quiet.)

What problems are avoided by minding your own business?

2. Integrity - V. 12

Is a tree known by its fruits?

III. ADVENT - 4:13-18

1. Souls Returning - V. 13-14

Will Christians still sorrow at the time of death even though they have faith?

I Cor. 15:55, Matt. 25:13, 2 Cor. 5:6-8, Phil. 1:21-24.

2. Saints Ascending - V. 15-17

What will become of those who die before the second coming of Christ?

Who will have the advantage at the end of the world, the living or the dead?

What do we know about the manner of the Lord's second coming?

3. Sorrow Departing - V. 18

What purpose should be made of what we have been taught about Christ's victory over death?

CONCLUSION:

Like a thief in the night - 5:1-11.

Advice to the church - 5:12-22.

Where will our meeting with the Lord take place at his return?

How should your belief in the return affect the way you live?