

v13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. v14 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. v15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. v16 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. v17 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. v18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

## **WHAT THE LIVING CAN KNOW ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

- 1. GRIEF IS PART OF LIFE – v13**  
Not “don’t grieve” but “don’t grieve like the rest of men”
- 2. DEATH IS NOT THE END – v13**  
Death is described as “falling asleep.” When we sleep we wake up at some time.

**3. JESUS HAS CONQUERED DEATH – v14** – “We believe that Jesus died and rose again”  
Paul did not only believe this, he knew it as fact, for he had personally encountered the risen Christ. Belief in the bible is not some vague expectation – belief in the bible is confident expectation.

**4. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN – v15**  
What can we be certain of in life?  
Benjamin Franklin - DEATH & TAXES  
DEATH TAXES AND CHARLIE BROWN  
The law of Physics, The law of Murphy and Death  
Death seems always to feature. The world is wrong

This is the only thing we can be certain of in life.  
Jesus is coming again.

- 5. WE SHOULD USE DEATH AS A OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER – v18**  
Death can either drive families apart or draw them together. The message for us today is “encourage each other.”
- 6. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AT DEATH IS TO BE SURE YOU ARE “IN CHRIST”**  
– v14 - those who have fallen asleep in him.  
– v16 - the dead in Christ will rise first.  
– v17 we who are still alive and are left  
**ARE YOU “IN CHRIST” AND IS CHRIST “IN YOU”**