
Date: July 5, 2020

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Series: Future Hope

Title: The Meetup of Meetups

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - 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. ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵According 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷After 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Three reasons why this will be the meetup of meetups:

1. The _____

2. The _____

3. The _____

1. Thinking about meetups, what was the greatest meetup you've ever attended? What made it so special?
2. When it comes right down to it, why are many believers not all that excited about the rapture? What do you think is at the core of their indifference about, or even dread of, Jesus' promised coming?
3. When you think about the coming rapture, are you personally encouraged? Infused with hope? Excited? Or something else?
4. What comes to mind when you think about meeting Jesus in the air among the clouds?
5. Are you okay with not knowing precisely when Jesus is coming? How does not knowing the precise day or hour of Jesus' coming affect your levels of hope?
6. Front and center in Paul's mind was meeting up with Jesus. If you are excited about the rapture, what is your primary reason for that excitement?
7. Complete this sentence – "The thought of leaving this present world behind and living with the Lord and the Lord's children forever makes me _____."
8. How can what we talked about in this message encourage you? In what way? How will it impact your hope? Who can you pass this message on to?