

# STUDY 6: GRIEF & HOPE

## Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18

Death has visited the church in Thessalonica. Whether from persecution or natural causes we can't be sure. However from v.13 we do know it has brought grief and uncertainty. Paul aware of this, possibly through Timothy, addresses the issue.

### DEEP IN THE WORD

1. From v.13 what do we know of the situation? Discuss the language Paul uses and the truths it contains.
2. Paul wants 2 things for the Thessalonians. What are they?
3. In v.14 Paul gives the believer's grounds for hope in the midst of their grief. Where does their hope lie? And, why is it not only the foundation for our hope, but an essential Gospel truth? See 1 Corinthians 15. Discuss.
4. Some may wish to share their own experience of grief and how this great truth brought hope in its midst.
5. Discuss v. 15 – 18. Note particularly the source of Paul's authority. What can we know for sure regarding the Lord's return and what is the effect this is to have in our lives?

### DEEP IN PRAYER

Armed with these truths and an eternal hope let us pray for our living loved ones, family members, friends and colleagues who are not in Christ. May they too be chosen of God and may the Gospel come to them not only in word, but also in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.