

# DEATH, RAPTURE AND THE CHRISTIAN

1 Thessalonians 4:3-18; Matthew 24:40-41; I Corinthians 15:12-58

*Additional texts: Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 17:20-37; Revelation 19:11-21*

## INTO THE TOPIC (OPENING):

Who was the first family member that you recall dying? Who have you been closest to through their dying days? How did this affect you? What else has shaped your view of death and dying?

## INTO THE WORD (STUDY):

- How would the Thessalonians have felt if they had remained ignorant of the Christian's resurrection and of Christ's return? How would Paul's words have encouraged them?
- 1. What is the order of events mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17? What happens first? Last?
- Paul uses an idiom for death as "fallen to sleep." How is death like/unlike a sleep?

*Think Q.U.E.S.T.: Do you still have a lingering **QUESTION**? What is particularly **UNEASY** for you or catches your attention? Is there an **EXHORTATION** or command in this passage? What is the **SETTING** (historical/cultural/linguistic context)? Is there a **TRUTH** to grasp?*

## INTO MY LIFE (APPLICATION):

- When you think about dying and death, what fears and hopes emerge?
- How do Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 comfort you?