

Compass

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Vol. 31 Issue 6 • April 2026

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 ESV

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

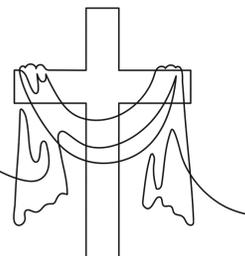
On our Spring Break mission trip, we focused on disaster recovery efforts in the flood-affected area along the Guadalupe River in Hunt County. We observed teenagers with a real zeal for Christ, encouraging peers who felt abandoned and lonely, reminding those who felt forgotten that the Lord will always be with them. The writer of Hebrews states, "...I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb 13:5b, ESV)

In our text, Paul addressed the need to encourage the church at Thessalonica during a period of grief, doubt, and hopelessness. Paul states, "...that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope." (v.13) The Thessalonians were worried that their Christian loved ones who had died would miss the benefits of the second coming of Christ. Paul states, "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first." (v.16) Be encouraged, brothers and sisters: no matter what you face in life, no matter your obstacles, God is always with you and will never forget about you!

In closing, the students realized the impact of their encouragement on their peers. Like Paul, who assured the church that both the resurrected and the living would be reunited with their loved ones and the Lord, we too can encourage each other with these words: "And this is the promise that he made to us--eternal life." (1 John 2:25, ESV)

WHAT CAN YOU DO OR SAY TO ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES?

Easter reminds us that because Christ lives, there is no greater comfort or encouragement than knowing that, whether alive or departed, Christians will join Christ and be reunited "together with them in the clouds." (v.17)



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR

APRIL 5, 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL TITLE

THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND DEATH

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS
15:13-20, 51-58

MAIN THOUGHT

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.
1 Corinthians 15:20, KJV

CLOSING PRAYER

Father God, thank you for this day, and please forgive us of our sins. Hear our prayer O' Lord, and teach us to encourage one another with your words and remain faithful to you. Thank you Lord, In Jesus' name, Amen.