

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

Feb 2017

### Model for Ministry: *Living in the Light of His Coming*

#### INTRODUCTION

How do you react when you hear predictions about the end of the world?

#### EXPLORATION

##### Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

*Note: In the Old Testament, trumpets (shofars, rams' horns) were used especially to gather the assembly or give orders for battle. Roman armies also used trumpets in war. When paired with a royal "coming" the word for "meeting" in the air normally referred to emissaries from a city going out to meet the dignitary and escort him on his way to their city. The "shout" is undoubtedly the commander's shout of war (Amos 2:2), an image applied to God as warrior in the Old Testament. These Thessalonian believers expected Christ's return during their lifetime, but were worried about their brethren who had died before the Second Coming*

1. What sequence of events will signal the Lord's return?
2. How is grief over a Christian's death different than a non-believer's death? **1 Cor 15:19**
3. "We will be with the Lord forever" – what a powerful promise (to Christians)! What happens at death? **I Corinthians 15:50-58**

##### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. When will the Lord return? **Matthew 24:36**
2. What are some contrasts between believers and non-believers?
3. Even though the death and resurrection of Christ are among the best attested facts of history, many people have a hard time accepting Christ's prediction - His Second Coming. Why?
4. What is God's plan for us? vv. 9-11
5. Twice Paul calls for the same action vv 4:18, 5:11. How can this information help others?

#### APPLICATION

- Does the reality of Christ's imminent return encourage or threaten you? How so?
- How can Paul's words help you face your own fears of death?

##### Found Faithful at His Coming

*There is a great illustration of faithfulness from history, quoted by John F. Kennedy during his 1960 presidential campaign. He often closed his speeches with this story of Colonel Davenport, the Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives.*

*One day in 1789 the skies over Hartford darkened ominously, and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared the end might be at hand.*

*Quelling a clamor for immediate adjournment, Davenport rose and said, "The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I wish that candles be brought."*

*Rather than fearing what may come, we are to be faithful to our calling until Christ returns. Instead of fearing the dark, we are to be lights where He has placed us.*