

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep (dead in Christ). For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"
1Thessalonians 4:14-16 KJV



The most blessed hope of the faithful, beside their own eternal life, is knowing that no loved one in Christ is ever lost. We do not sorrow over departed loved ones as *"those having no Hope."* The death of a loved one in Christ is simply *"Hasta la vista,"* which in Spanish means, *"until we meet."* Our loved one in Christ precedes us into the glorious presence of God. Ask yourself this, dear believer; would you rather your loved one be with you on earth or with the Holy Father of Light? Where would you prefer to be? Many times our sorrow is a selfish one. We should rejoice that our loved one is finally free of the flesh, the enemy of the faithful! We most assuredly will be reunited, never again to part in the eternal ecstasy which surrounds the Everlasting Father! If anything, I would hope that we would be more envious than sorrowful. However, the faithful do not seek death, and it certainly holds no fear or threat for them. It is their passport to a glorious inheritance promised by God *"which cannot lie."* In every sense death is the final farewell of every believer for they will never again bid anyone farewell. We often call high school graduation a *"Commencement Exercise"* and indeed it is the beginning of the rest of life. Death is, for the saint, the beginning of eternal day! Rejoice and be exceeding glad that all the pain, sorrow, and agony of sin is forever gone from your loved one in Christ on their Graduation Day! Death is not an unknown quantity for the faithful. It is a vanquished foe, defeated over 2000 years ago by God Himself on the Cross of Calvary who killed death by dying for every beloved saint. *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."* His love for us and our love for Him will banish all fear of death. *"Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* To know God, is to trust and love Him. Could there be a better place for anyone to bide the rest of what little time remains for men? *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes!"*

Oh the joy of the blessed morn,
When we by death no longer torn,
Will stand complete before the Throne,
To ne'er again be found forlorn! ~CGP

It is of the utmost urgency that we work to rescue the perishing while there is still hope, so we may see them again. Eternal Life through faith in Christ is an invincible fact, because the God who gives it is Eternity's Sovereign!

"There is no fear in Love; but perfect Love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in Love. We love Him, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:18-19 KJV