

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

Sunday, April 21, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some indications in Paul's letter that it is okay for Christians to grieve the death of a loved one who also believed in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?

Paul wrote that believers need not "grieve as others do who have no hope." Those who have no hope in Christ will grieve differently from those who do have hope in Christ. The ones who have no hope in Christ will grieve differently when they think of their own death and the death of a

loved one than those who hope in Christ. Both types will grieve, just differently.

2. What aspect of the Christian hope did Paul emphasize in this letter?

Paul wrote that “through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.” If a believer dies, we will see them again and rejoice with them if we are a believer too.

3. How will Jesus return to our world?

Jesus will come with a loud noise, “with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and the sound of a trumpet.” He will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise.

4. How have some been deceived about Jesus’ return?

Some have thought that Jesus has already returned. Some have even been persuaded by deceivers that they themselves or someone else is Jesus Christ, and they have followed this deceiving Christ, who may very well be deceived himself about himself.

5. What is one sign that Paul mentions in this letter that Jesus’ return may be near?

When people say, “There is peace and security.”

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