

The Return of Christ:
Have we missed Him?

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I Corinthians 15 : 51

“We shall not all sleep...”

What does Paul mean by we and when shall they not sleep?

I Thessalonians 4 : 15, 17

“...we who are alive and remain.....we who are alive and remain...”

Who is we and when shall they remain?

Did Paul tell them that some of them there, would not die? If so, did we miss Christ? Has He come?

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How should we use the bible today?

Understand it was written in Greek/Hebrew not English.

Understand the “language” of the times. The idioms, special phrase, that are used are not to be literal.

Ask the question, “What message is being sent?”

Contextually – Above and Below

Consider the text with the totality of the rest of the scripture.

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What does the Bible teach us about Christ?

John 1 : 1 – 2

“In the beginning...He was...with God.”

He has no beginning.

John 1 : 14

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

He came to the world.

Luke 1 : 1 – 4

“...a narrative...an orderly account...”

“....Jesus began both to do and teach,” Acts 1 : 1

He lived and taught.

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What does the Bible teach us about Christ?

Luke 23 : 44 – 49

“...He breathed His last.”

He died.

Mark 15 : 42 – 47

“...he granted the body to Joseph...rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.”

He was buried.

Luke 24 : 1 – 8

“...He is not here, but is risen!...”

He arose.

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What does the Bible teach us about Christ?

Luke 24 : 50 – 53

“...He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.”

“...a cloud received Him out of their sight.” Acts 1 : 9

He ascended.

But what happens next?

John 14 : 2 – 3

“...I will come again...”

Acts 1 : 11

“...Jesus...will so come in like manner...”

Hebrews 9 : 28

“...He will appear a second time...for salvation.”

He is coming back.

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Could Jesus have come, and we missed it?

II Peter 3 : 10

When Jesus comes “...the heavens will pass away with a great noise...the elements will melt with fervent heat...the earth...will be burned up.”

When Jesus comes – all will be destroyed.

Hebrew 9 : 27

“...it is appointed...to die once...the judgment.”

When all is destroyed – we are all judged.

Matthew 24 : 23 – 27

“...as the lighting comes...so also will be the...Son of Man be.”

When He comes – all will know it.

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What did Paul teach the Corinthians and Thessalonians?

Whatever he taught, he cannot contradict what Jesus taught nor what Peter taught.

Both Jesus and Peter taught that Jesus would only come back once, and then judgment (Hebrew writer).

We must always consider the totality of scripture when dealing with difficult passages.

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The Corinthians

I Corinthians 15 : 35 – 44

Paul is teaching about death and the resurrection.

I Corinthians 15 : 50 – 55

“...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom...”

“...nor does corruption inherit incorruption.”

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption...this mortal...immortality...”

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The Corinthians

What about the (2) we's?

51 – We shall not all sleep

52 – We shall be changed

What is Paul's point?

1. That Jesus will return before all in Corinth die.
2. When Jesus does return, those of us who are alive must change.

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The Thessalonians

I Thessalonians 4 : 13 – 18

Paul is teaching about those who have died before the second coming of Christ.

“...do not...be ignorant...”

“...the Lord will descend...the dead in Christ will rise first.”

“Then we who are alive...shall be...together with them...in the air...”

What is Paul's point?

1. That Jesus will return before all in Thessalonica die.
2. When Jesus does return, those who have died did not miss the change.

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Has Christ Come?

No

Will He come in our life time?

I don't know.

What do I know?

Those of us who die in the Lord, will be raised. Those of us who remain until His coming will be changed.