

The Funeral Epistle-I Thessalonians 4:13-17 (KJV)

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

The Holy Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians offers timeless hope.

Believers gathered at funerals benefit from the Apostle's words of hope.

The Apostle is reassuring and comforting for believers mourning the departed.

The heart, mind and soul are deeply affected when a loved one departs this life.

The Funeral Service gathers believers in prayer for the departed and each other.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Believers consider their own lives and the life of the departed at the funeral.

The future of the departed is considered as are the lives of all in attendance.

God's reassuring loving presence is manifested in the Funeral Service/

The Epistle and Gospel readings focus believers' thoughts on life lying ahead.

The Epistle shines the Light of Jesus Christ eradicating death's darkness.

15 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 them which are asleep.

The Resurrected Christ broke down death's barrier and established enduring hope.

Believers benefit from the message of waiting for the Lord's Second Coming.

The Second Coming of Christ holds promise for believers living and departed.

Jesus Christ provides hope and joy from Holy Baptism until the Second Coming.

Believers immersed in Christ embrace hope and joy in the heart, mind and soul.

16 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:

Serious believers embrace and do not doubt the power of the Resurrected Christ.

Belief in the general resurrection of the dead is first professed at Holy Baptism.

Believers reaffirm belief in the general resurrection at each recitation of The Creed.

The promise of the general resurrection empowers believers attending the funeral.

Holy Apostle Paul's message to the Thessalonians has brightened each century.

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The Epistle speaks of the uniting of the living and departed at the Second Coming.

God's Holy Church affirms living and departed believers are united in Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Church continue to reference the living and the departed each day.

The Church provides the hopeful perspective when a loved one departs this life.

Joy is anticipated in the reuniting of the living and departed at the Second Coming.