

September 7, 2014
Mourning

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - . . . *that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

In light of the past week, I think that we have all been grieving. The loss of a friend, or family does that to us. Jill's death is no different. When we lose someone, we hurt, we grieve and we mourn. That is normal. Losing someone we care about is hard. God never intended death to be part of our lives, and so we hurt when we experience it.

But, Paul reminds us in the passage above that death does not have the last word. Though here and now we mourn those faith filled people that we lose to death, we do not do so without hope. Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, those whose faith is in him will also rise from the dead. So, we encourage one another in the hope we have in Jesus, even as we mourn the loss of a loved one. Christ died that our sin might meet its death, and he rose that we might also be raised when he returns. This is the promise that all the faithfully departed had, it is the promise that all of the faithful have and it is the promise that Jesus gives to you in the forgiveness he won for you in his own death and resurrection.

So as Paul says in 1 Thessalonians, we do not mourn the loss of our faithful loved ones as those who have no hope. Yes, we mourn. Yes, we hurt. Yes, we grieve. But, we have

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hope in Jesus that on the last day we will see all those faith filled people who have gone before us,

raised with Christ. And, we have hope that on that day we will once again worship Jesus and rejoice in the company of our family and friends. Amen.

News

Today, please note that there will be a couple of very important meetings after church. First off, there is a senior youth meeting directly following worship. There the youth *and their families* will discuss the coming year and what the youth group will be doing in it. So, please come to that if you plan to participate in the youth group.

The second meeting is also youth centered. It will be a meeting with me if you are in confirmation or are the family of someone who is in confirmation. There, we will discuss the schedule, the time and the expectations I have for the coming year's confirmation class. So please come to that if you are going to be part of confirmation. That meeting will be at 12:30, to give you a chance to get lunch. Also that will give you a break from me, if only a small one. ;-)

God's peace. I look forward to seeing you all again next week or sooner. Have a blessed week.

Pastor *Carl P. H.*

