

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

INTRODUCTION

- I. The history of mankind is made up of “the quick and the dead.”
 - A. The word “quick” in the KJV is often translated “living” in the ASV and NKJV, and perhaps many other translations as well.
 1. The expression “the quick and the dead” is found in 2 Tim. 4:1 (Read) cf NKJV
 2. Millions of those living in the past are now dead, and millions in the present will be among the dead, except those living upon the return of the Lord.
 - B. One passage describes what will happen to some of the quick and dead when the Lord comes again. 1 Thess 4:13-18
- II. Now let’s examine this great passage.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s examine the “asleep”--or the DEAD IN CHRIST.

- A. The words “sleep” and “asleep” are found many times in the New Testament, as a “euphemism” for “death”. John 11:11-14; cf 1 Cor. 15:51-52
 1. To sleep in death often brings natural and limited sorrow. John 11:33-35
 2. BUT, the sorrow for those who have hope of living again is less because they hope meet again in a time of rejoicing.
- B. Those now asleep shall some day awake to live again. John 11:23-24
 1. Your beloved parents, grandparents, children and other loved ones will come forth from their rest in sleep.
 2. They will have had no disadvantage as far as meeting Christ is concerned, for they shall be raised **before** Christ makes His appearance. (Explain 1 Thess. 4:15)
 - a. The text says THEY “**shall arise first.**” v. 16
 - b. This does NOT mean the dead in Christ shall be raised **before** the dead **out of Christ** (the lost) shall be raised. John 5:28-29. Explain fully.
 - c. The dead OUT of Christ are not even under ANY consideration in THESE VERSES in 1 Th. 4, but Paul is giving comfort to CHRISTIANS (those IN Christ) shall be raised FIRST, and ‘THEN’ (or second) the living will be changed to ascend WITH righteous dead who have just been raised, and **together** (“with them”), to meet the Lord. vs. 16-17
 - d. IF those who “arise first includes those “out of Christ, would mean that they would **they, with the righteous will FOREVER be with the Lord, meaning NO ONE will be lost, making “universalism” true and biblicism a false doctrine.**

II. 2nd, let’s note the OTHER EVENTS of the resurrection day.

- A. The first thing will be a **shout** from the Lord, calling for the sleeping to awake—a shout that will be heard around the Lord by those who have died in a good relationship with the Lord Himself. v. 16; cf John 11:43
- B. The second thing will be the **voice** of Michael the archangel of God, perhaps giving direction or consolation to the righteous. v. 16; cf Jude 9; Rev. 12:7
- C. The third thing will be sounding of the **trump** of God, perhaps announcing the fact that time is running out, or that this would be the last occurrence of anything before the dead begin their resurrection. v. 16; cf 1 Cor. 15:52

CONCLUSION

- I. Paul’s message brings “comfort” to those who have hope of the resurrection. v. 18
 - A. This comfort is for all who are IN Christ. Gal. 3:26-27; John 15:4
 - B. The lost have no hope of being a part of the glorious events of the resurrection.
- II. Are you “in Christ?”