**HOPEFUL GRIEVING**

**Processing the Reality of Death Through the Lens of the Gospel**

***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NASB95* (pg. 1183 in the pew Bible)**

**Contextual Considerations**

* The death and resurrection of Jesus have already happened.
* Thessalonica was a large and prosperous city in Macedonia.
* The church was a result of Paul’s missionary work.
* Paul is now writing to that church to clarify certain things that are confusing the believers, namely things related to death and the Second coming of Christ.

**1. Death**

1. Death is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
2. God is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over life and death.
3. We should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in light of these two truths.

**2. Grief**

Is it okay for Christians to grieve? \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:2, John 11:33-36)

Grief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God. (Psalm 34:18, Psalm 119:67)

**3. Hope**

For Christians, hope is not just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but rather it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

See John 11:25-27, 1 Corinthians 15:31-32, 51-55

Our hope is rooted in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

Death has no ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from God. (See Romans 8:38-39). Death only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ separates us from others who are in Christ.

Death has been defeated by the resurrection of Jesus Christ and will be completely abolished at his Second coming. See Isaiah 25:8, Revelation 21:4

**Spread this hope to others!**