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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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From Christmas to the Second Coming

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

The Appearing (parousia)

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NIV) — 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God... (See also Matthew 24:30-31; II Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 22:7-21)

- ❖ Jesus will return in majesty, authority and power.

Resurrection and Reunion

*1 Thessalonians 4:14–17 (NIV) — 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him...we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. **And so we will be with the Lord forever.***

- ❖ Jesus will return to call his own to himself through resurrection and recreation.

*1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NIV) — 50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed...** (See also all of 1 Corinthians 15)*

Judgment and Justice

2 Thessalonians 1:5–10 (NIV) — 5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. 6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. (See also Revelation 21 & 22)

- ❖ Jesus will return to bring justice to the faithful and oppressed and judgment to the faithless oppressors.

Alert and Active

1 Thessalonians 4:1–11 (NIV) — 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (See also II Timothy 2:1-13)

- ❖ In view of Christ's return his followers seek to lives of holiness, love, service and witness.