

Dr. Allan MacRae  
10/5/72 - Thursday  
Chapel Message

Let us turn to I Thessalonians, The first epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians the 4th chapter. I want to look there at verses 13 through 17; a passage in which we are given information which is not given quite as specifically as this anywhere else in the scripture. Paul says, in verse 15, "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord,". In other words, Paul is here telling us not ~~as~~ something he has observed, not something he has thought out, not some insight that came to him, but what God has specifically revealed to him. ¶ Parts of the scripture came thus by revelation. God revealed truth and the people wrote it down. Other matters in the scripture are what they saw, what they thought about, what they worked out, but all of it is inspired and kept free from error.

ε ¶ But it stresses the importance of this passage. Paul says this is a specific revelation; this he received by the word of the Lord. Starting then in verse 13, "but I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that he sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 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 precede them which are asleep. 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: 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."

What a wonderful vision this is that God gave Paul of what is to happen in the future. What a wonderful insight into a specific event that is ahead. I like to think of it as I like to think of what we mentioned yesterday about the ascension of Christ, how he rose up into the sky and left them there wondering what it all meant until the angels explained and added their words to what Jesus