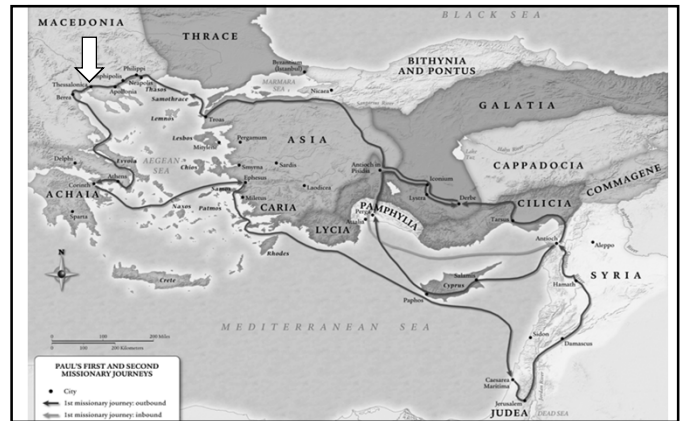


Easter Meditation
HOPE-FILLED GRIEF



¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Hope-Filled Grief

1. Paul's Pastoral Aim

- to give comfort to believers who were grieving over the of death fellow-believers
- *hope-filled grief* – grief that is mitigated by a real hope; unlike those who have no hope

Hope-Filled Grief

2. The Basis of this Comfort

- the truth of the death and resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our hope
- this truth guarantees the future life at Jesus' coming of those believers who are now asleep (dead)

Hope-Filled Grief

3. The Content of this Comfort

- thesis: *those believers who have died before Jesus' coming will in no way miss out or be disadvantaged when He returns*

Hope-Filled Grief

3. The Content of this Comfort

- resurrection from the dead
- reunion with believers
- relationship (unending) with the Lord

Hope-Filled Grief

"Therefore comfort one another with these words."