

I Thess. 4:17

SUBJECT: Forever With
the Lord

(97)

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ΚΑΙ ΟΥΤΩΣ ΠΑΝΤΟΤΕ ΣΥΝ ΚΥΡΙΩ ΕΣΟΜΕΘΑ

FOREVER WITH THE LORD

We know the words full of comfort, for the apostle says in the next verse, "wherefore, comfort..."

These the very words dictated by "the Comforter"
ΠΑΡΑΚΛΗΤΟΣ - an advocate, intercessor I Jn 2:1
- a comforter, comforter, helper Jn 14:16, 26
15: 26
16: 7

ΠΑΡΑΚΛΗΣΙΕΩ - to comfort, solace, succor

to be repeated by the saints

said to one another

of Mal. 3:16, 17

of Rev. 1:3 "Blessed is he that readeth in thy out-let from the words of the prophecy"

The comfort referred to:

- (1) Partly from the fact of the resurrection. A great truth, we shall rise again.
- (2) Partly from the bliss of the assembly of God's children, risen to be broken up again. The separation transient; the re-union everlasting.
- (3) Partly from the glory to be revealed, for heaven a many-sided joy.

But mostly refers to, "fellowship with the Lord."

(as the story of David or a boy. The man said: in trusting me, said when he died, see your feet. Little boy died. and in still see your feet? Father, nearly died. "Still see your feet?" wife died - alone! Still see your feet!")

I. πάντοτε through all times, changes, seasons, ages
A continuance of our present fellowship with ^{the} Lord.
Means: nothing can, shall, prevent our continuing to be
now with the Lord. Death not separates us. Our
abiding in Christ remains unbroken.
cf. Rom. 8: 38, 39

1. We are with the Lord now, in this life.
Paul's favorite expression: "in Christ"
Col 3: 3 "your life is hid with Christ in God"
a sheep following Christ - a member of his mystical body
a branch of the spiritual vine (separated, dead)
crucified with the Lord - buried ... raised ... ascended ...

There is a union of heart between us. We are in
league with him, enlisted under his banner. Following
him, working for him, ..

And he is with us:

Matt. 28: 18-20

Matt. 18: 20

We have heard the sound of our master's feet behind us
when on his errand. We have felt the touch of his hand
when to the pursuit of battle. We have known the
breath of his presence when assembled together.

6. Ever. We walk with him now.
no discharging yet in the future.

2. We hear about a dying body. Of the Lord Jesus.
the Name coming when we shall die. What then?

We are not alone, unattended. There is the friend
who sticks close to us, a helper who will not fail us
we forsake us.

Is. 23:4

When Jesus meets his saints, ^{in death} no joy gate to pass through.
In a moment, does their eyes or hearts, open them in glory.
I saw Jesus smile, two saints say, and a his spirit passed away
the whole part, & it all.
"Fares with the Lord."

3. For awhile, the body slumbers. But our pure spirits
to the general assembly we stand, the just ones which are with us
in heaven, we to the judge? all. the spirits of just men
perfect, we to Jesus the mediator? the new world. Heb. 12:23
of that wonderful state, know so little.

years for 3 days
the day, "today" -- "Prophet"
Is. 5:3

II. But the great consolation, consummation,
this glorious, climactic moment when we shall see
the Lord in resurrection glory, face to face: Redeemed in
both body and soul.

1. We are deeply, painfully conscious, however spiritually
rejoiced we are, near the Lord Jesus, that while we are present
in the body we are absent from the Lord. of Paul Phil. 1:23 "for better"
Earth is not heaven the ^{the} better by far, as heaven's judgment
over it. Not with X us to a good place, right. Not between.

2. Deeply conscious, though our souls with X, yet our bodies
are subject to corruption. Whether the sealed sepulchre of
Israel guards the blessed dead & the fathers; or whether scattered to the
four winds of heaven is flung the dust of the martyrs - yet still
with us. There is yet another grand event:
Job 19:23 "I know that my Redeemer lives" --
I Cor. 15:53 "for that corruptible..."

3. This infinite glory, when we see 'Ouv' the Lord?
 Fourteen words to 'with'
 This one 'Ouv' denotes, accompanied, fellowship -
 fellowship for love, more intimate than expressed by words.
 6. Ouv - it is 'sympathy'?

One with him in resurrection glory. The world takes away.
 Take with him, intimately associated. We as he is; like
 (a) why not, Hypothetical, David's mother
 & John in Rev. 22:3?

Believers identified with X.
 a Shepherd? not without his sheep
 a King? subject
 a Bridegroom? bride
 a Saviour? saved
 an Elder Brother? younger brother
 a Redeemer? redeemed.
 We are the fulness of his that filled all in all.

In due time X shall come - but they sound words?
 caught up in the clouds - but X not come without his people. The
 saints with him.
 caught up in the clouds - in paradise - in the new earth
 in heaven - in the grave or in glory - with him.

He ascended - we shall ascend
 a cloud received him - a cloud shall receive us.
 He shall descend - we shall descend
 He shall reign - we shall reign with him.

O glory, glory.
 of the truth? the heart? his garment enough to heal
 of the right? his enough to give life to the dead
 what must it be to have him ^{actually} ^{literally} ^{really} ^{always!}