

1. Stay Connected Until He Comes Hebrews 10:24–25

2. 24 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. NIV

3. 24 - Laat ons ons ook daarop toelê om mekaar aan te spoor tot liefde en goeie dade, sonder om ons eie samekoms te verwaarloos, soos sommige se gewoonte is; laat ons eerder mekaar aanmoedig, soveel te meer nog namate julle dié dag sien nader kom! NV '83

24 - Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, v25 - especially as we see the big Day approaching. MSG

“...and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

Introduction:

We live in a world where people are more connected digitally than ever before, yet many are more isolated than ever before.

The writer of Hebrews addresses believers who were discouraged and drifting away from fellowship.

His answer is not, “Try harder.”

4. His answer is, **Draw closer—to Christ and to one another.**

5. Why? Because the Day is approaching.

6. 1. Don't Drift Away from One Another

“Let us consider one another...” “Laat ons, ons daarop toelê om mekaar aan te spoor tot liefde en goeie dade

Christianity is not a solo journey. The Christian life is lived in community.

Notice the emphasis:

- Consider one another.

- Stir up one another.
- Encourage one another.
- Meet together.

The focus is never simply “me.” **GROUP DYNAMICS - OUTREACHES**

It is always “us.”

We gather...

- to worship God.
- to receive God’s Word.
- to encourage one another.
- to stir one another toward love and good works.
- to strengthen one another.

One person alone can become discouraged.

A connected church becomes strong.

Why does the writer suddenly say, “all the more as you see the Day approaching”?

7. Because our greatest hope is still ahead.

The writer of Hebrews speaks about “**the Day.**”

Paul explains exactly what that Day will look like.

8. 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18.

15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

9. 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, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

10. 17 After that, 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Afrikaans '53

11. 15- Dit sê ons vir julle op grond van wat die Here gesê het: Ons wat bly lewe tot met die wederkoms van die Here, sal die ontslapenes hoegenaamd nie voor wees nie.

12. 16 - Wanneer die bevel gegee word en die stem van die aartsengel en die trompet van God weerklink, sal die Here self uit die hemel neerdaal. Allereers sal dié wat in Christus gesterf het, uit die dood opstaan;

13. 17 - daarna sal ons wat nog lewe, saam met hulle op die wolke weggevoer word, die lug in, die Here tegemoet. En so sal ons altyd by die Here wees. 18 - Troos mekaar dan met hierdie woorde.

The rapture of the Church is the undeniable doctrine of Scripture that affirms there is a soon-coming event, at which time Christ will descend into the lower atmosphere above the earth, and “the dead in Christ” will be supernaturally resurrected.

Also at that time, or immediately afterward — so quickly that it will be nearly **imperceptible / onmerkbaar** / — Christ will supernaturally “catch away,” or rapture, the authentic Church, **those in Christ “which are alive and remain.”**

He will snatch that remnant from harm’s way at the very end of this present age. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.)

People want to know at what point in the end-times timeline the rapture of the Church will occur?

But the apostle Paul’s writing in First Thessalonians about the rapture of the Church itself is paramount, **and we need to see that the rapture of the Church is one of the clearest-stated doctrines in the New Testament.**

Although people have different views about when it will occur (and I’m talking about pre-, mid-, or post-Tribulation, etc.), **the reality of a future rapture of the Church is undeniable in Scripture.**

14. 2. Live Ready Because Jesus Is Coming

verse 17: “...we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...”

Notice two beautiful words: “...alive...”

THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE - The word “alive” that appears in verse 15 and again in verse 17.

In both verses, the word “**alive**” is translated from the **words hoi zoontoi**, which not only means to be alive, but here, **it conveys the meaning of those who are fully alive, robust, thriving, vibrant, and vigorous.**

15. ... spiritually living, spiritually robust, spiritually thriving, spiritually vibrant, and spiritually vigorous.

This description contrasts with those who are physically alive, but who are not spiritually alive and vibrant. The use of this particular Greek word tells us that Christ is coming for those who are spiritually engaged.

He is not coming for those who merely have a form of godliness, but for those who are, as one expositor states, the living ones or the vibrant ones.

God still has work for His Church. We are not waiting passively.

We are serving actively. We are making disciples.

We are encouraging believers. We are sharing the Gospel.

We are building His Kingdom.

“...remain...”

The word speaks of perseverance.

Jesus is not looking for people who merely started well.

He is looking for people who remain faithful.

Remain in: faith. hope. love. fellowship. obedience.

The Christian race is not only about beginning.

It is about remaining faithful until the end.

The Connection

Hebrews says: **Don't stop gathering.**

Thessalonians says: **Remain faithful until He comes.**

The two belong together.

The Church that remains together is the Church that remains faithful.

16. 3. Our Hope Is Not to Escape but to have a living Expectation!

Paul ends by saying:

“Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Notice that the doctrine of Christ's return **is not given to create speculation or fear.**

It is given to **produce encouragement.** Every generation has difficulties.

Every generation has suffering.

17. But every generation also has this hope: Jesus is coming again.

That hope gives us courage to keep gathering, keep serving, keep loving, and keep persevering.

18. Conclusion - Three questions:

- **Am I connected to the Body of Christ?**
- **Am I encouraging someone else?**
- **If Jesus came today, would He find me faithfully remaining?**

Until Jesus comes, don't drift away.

Stay connected. Stay encouraged. Stay faithful. Stay on mission.

And one day, **we who are alive and remain** will be caught up together to meet the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:18:

“Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

It begins with **“encourage one another”** in Hebrews 10 and ends with **“encourage one another”** in 1 Thessalonians 4.

19.

- **Because we are alive, we gather!**
- **Because we remain, we encourage one another, we grow!**
- **Because He is coming, we do so all the more, we go!**

20. Stay Connected Until He Comes

