

Friday 19th June 2020

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 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. 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. 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. 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 for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

When I turn to these words of scripture they fill me with comfort and hope but as I think of the content I am reminded of the many who are suffering and mourning the death of loved ones at this time of separation and social distancing, I am filled with great sadness. What if they have not heard or do not know the gospel message that death of the body is not the end? Where do they find comfort and hope?

John 3:16 tells us:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

More than ever as God’s people we should be sharing these life-giving words. Let us also remember Paul’s words to the Corinthian Church:

“Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

We too are called on to show compassion and care. This may be by offering help in some way, perhaps by letting others know that you care and want to give aid. This can go a long way to ease a breaking heart.

Lord, help us to share with the broken hearted in your world that Jesus Lives, Jesus Saves and through You we receive forgiveness, mercy, love and eternal life. Help us to bless those who mourn by becoming a channel for your love comfort and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Son of God, who loves us and gives us life. Amen.