

think that that would enter into this particular passage because he says

"I wouldn't have you ignorant concerning those .

The sorrow seems to be not for their sakes but for the dead; that is in this particular passage that seems to be the thing that is involved and then, the thing which he assures them by the word of the Lord is that we will not prevent them who are asleep, and of course prevent is utterly erroneous here in modern English all right in old English, which means "come before", "we won't get ahead of them". We won't get ahead of those who have died. They will have their part in the glory as much as we will, so I don't think that he is comforting the living about themselves but about the dead, though, of course, he naturally gives a great sense of joy to the living in what he tells. Now of course, in this letter Paul is writing to people to whom he had preached a good many sermons. He was in Thessalonica and he developed the church there. Many of the doctrines which he refers to in these letters as matters with which they are thoroughly familiar. He just touches on them. He doesn't start in here to explain about the atonement, very much, but he assumes it. He doesn't explain about the resurrection of Christ; he assumes it. So it is quite evident that Paul had given a great deal of teaching to these people, and how much teaching he had given them we don't know but it would appear here that his objective was not to say the church is going to be raptured. His objective is to say in the rapture the dead are to have an equal position with the living and it would suggest that he might have gone into these matters more or less in detail when he talked with them, just how much we don't know, but the thing they are talking about here is the deceased, and he says, "You don't need to sorrow about the deceased because you won't get ahead of them. You won't have any advantage over them. You will be in the same position whether you have died or not, and then he goes on to fit it in to the theme of future events. V. 16, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout." What is the word "descend" here in the Greek? I didn't check on that. (Student) Yes.