

that stares every human being in the face. We all have to face it, either as a possible experience for ourselves in the future, or as something definitely ~~which~~ which people we ~~know~~ have known have passed ~~through~~ through. And therefore this is a verse which ~~is~~ certainly should not be one of the parts of the ~~Bible~~ Bible that a Christian just says, "Well, there's a verse that doesn't have much to do with me. It all has a lot to do with you, all of the Bible. But ~~here's~~ here's a verse that strikes right close to all of us. "I would not have you/^{to be}ignorant, brethren, ~~you~~ concerning them who are asleep." Well, what about those who are asleep? Of course He means those who have died. That's perfectly obvious in the context. Some people say, "I take the whole Bible literally; I take ~~every~~ every word of it ~~literally~~ literally." When somebody says that, I say, "I wonder whether that person has ever read much of the Bible." You can't take all of any book that ever was written literally. Because everything that ever was written contains figures of speech. It's a natural part of human language. It ~~is~~ is proper to try to take anything literally, and see if that is the natural interpretation. But anything ever written contains figures of speech, and figures of speech often are clearer than what is literal. A figure of speech doesn't have to be involved, or obscure. It may be very clear. And the Bible, like everything ~~else~~ else that was ever written, has many figures of speech in it. "Them who are asleep," It's a figure of speech. It's perfectly clear what it means. He means/^{those}~~them~~ who have died. He doesn't ~~want~~ want you to be ignorant about something important about them. What's that" Well, He says, "so that you sorrow not, even as ~~others~~ ^{that} others/~~who~~ have no hope. He doesn't say ~~that~~ ^{that} we are not to sorrow/ when our loved ones die. We can't help sorrowing when our loved ones die. We are separated from ~~them~~ them. It's a loss. It's inevitable we sorrow. But that we don't sorrow like ~~others~~ others do He says. Like those that have no hope. There's nothing for them but sorrow. There's no hope beyond. But for us there's a tremendous hope. And that's what Paul's going to tell us. We're not to sorrow when our ~~loved~~ loved ones die like ~~others~~ others do that haven't any hope. No, our sorrow is to be far

