

less than theirs, because we have a great hope. Well, now most Christians, I fear, when somebody dies, they say, "We'll all be together in heaven some ~~day~~ day. Isn't it wonderful they've gone to heaven?" Well, ~~that~~ that's grand. But is ~~that~~ that the hope Paul is talking about here? What is it that Paul says is the reason why we are not to sorrow the way others do? ~~It's~~ It's the rapture. Heaven is important, but the rapture is what gets the central place in Paul's statement that Christians are not to sorrow the same way others have to that don't have hope, because we have this hope. What is the hope? \* "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." There's ~~our~~ our hope then. When our loved ones die we know that if they have died in Christ, if they have been saved through His precious ~~his~~ blood, if they have looked to Him for salvation sometime, and turned away from their sin, and been born again, through the Lord Jesus Christ, then we know when they die that our parting is only for a time, because when Jesus comes back He is going to bring them with Him. Isn't that a wonderful thing? That's our great hope. The hope of ~~the~~ the Christian is not heaven. It is the resurrection. That's the hope for the Christian. Heaven is wonderful, but the resurrection is the great hope. And here we have the resurrection. When Jesus comes, those who sleep in Jesus God is going to bring with Jesus. And then he continues, in verse ~~15~~ 15: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord." What does he mean by "the word of the Lord?" He means, "God has revealed this to ~~me~~ me. This is a great message that no man could have known by any guessing, by any philosophy, by any human speculation, by any human thinking. The only way to know ~~it~~ it is because God has revealed it to' us. You know ~~people~~ people often think: "Isn't this great? the way Christians talk about revelation." ~~Revelation?~~ We're not interested in revelation - some old ~~mediaeval~~ mediaeval idea like this revelation.. We're interested in what we can see, what we can touch, what we can experiment with." ~~Well~~ Well, how much do you know that you have learned through experimenting? through seeing? through touching? A few things, yes; but mighty little. The greatest scientist in the world has learned at least eighty per cent percent of what he knows, not by his experiments, not by his study, not by his investigation, but by a revelation from some other personality,