

Paul says, We should not sorrow as others do. He does not say we should not sorrow. We do sorrow, whether we part to go to a distant part of the earth and they never see us again, or we go to another part of the universe and they not see us for a time. We sorrow. But we are not to sorrow like those do who have no hope. The people who do not know the teaching that Paul is about to give. They may sorrow in a way that God does not want us to sorrow. Paul tells us why.

"Because if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." So we are told the reason we are not to sorrow is because there is to be a reunion. Not we are not to sorrow but not sorrow like those who have no hope. Because there is to be a reunion. That reunion may be that we ourselves go where they are. But Paul evidently felt that in the case of many of us we would not have to wait to go where they are now, before we are united with them. So we says we should not sorrow that way because we say this to you by the word of the Lord. Why does Paul say, By the Word of the Lord?

There are times when Paul quotes something Jesus said on earth. He says, This is the Word of the Lord on this matter. Now on this I have no word of the Lord, but (this is what) I tell you what God wants me to say. He does not say he is not an authority. He is. God speaks ^{through} ~~to~~ him. But when he has a particular quotation from what Jesus actually said on earth he quotes that. But in this case it does not have that meaning. He is not quoting something Jesus said on earth though he may be referring to a statement He said on earth. He is here claiming that what he is about to tell them is