

1st Thessalonians 4-10-22

4:17 And so we will be
with the Lord forever.

1:1-10 – Escape the Coming Wrath

2:1-12 – How Paul Loved, pt 1

2:13-20 – How Paul Loved, pt 2

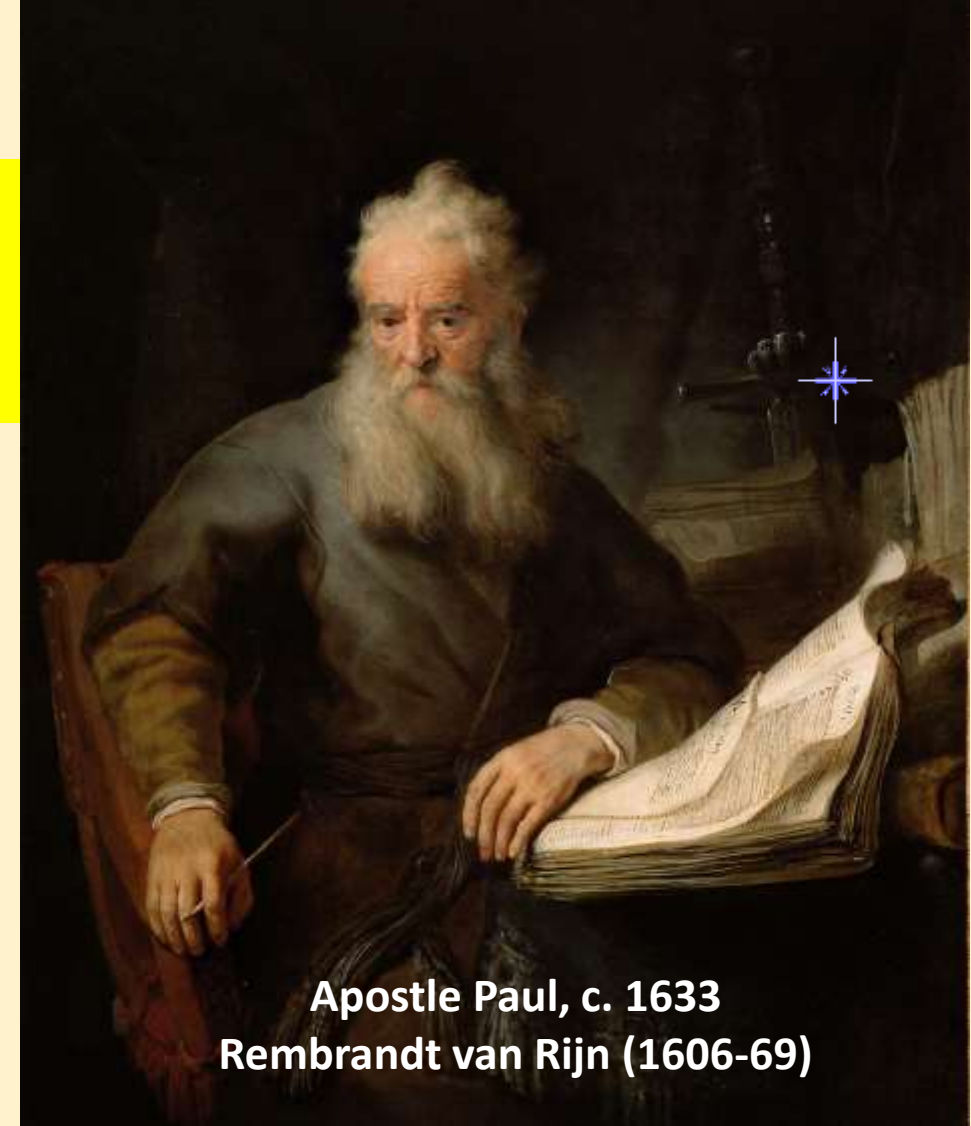
3:1-14 – Your Pastor's Heart

4:1-12 – How Holy Can You Be?

✚ 4:13-18 – Our Heavenly Rest

5:1-11 – Day of the Lord ... Are You Woke?

5:12-24 – Blameless at His Coming



Apostle Paul, c. 1633
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

April 17 – Sunrise 0700 – Next Sunday



Easter

CELEBRATE WITH US

7:00 SUNRISE SERVICE // 9:30 BREAKFAST // 10:45 WORSHIP

In 1989 when his friend Keith Whitley died, Vance Gill started to write ...

Go Rest High on that Mountain

Last line of the first stanza

You were no stranger to the rain

title of Whitley greatest hit!

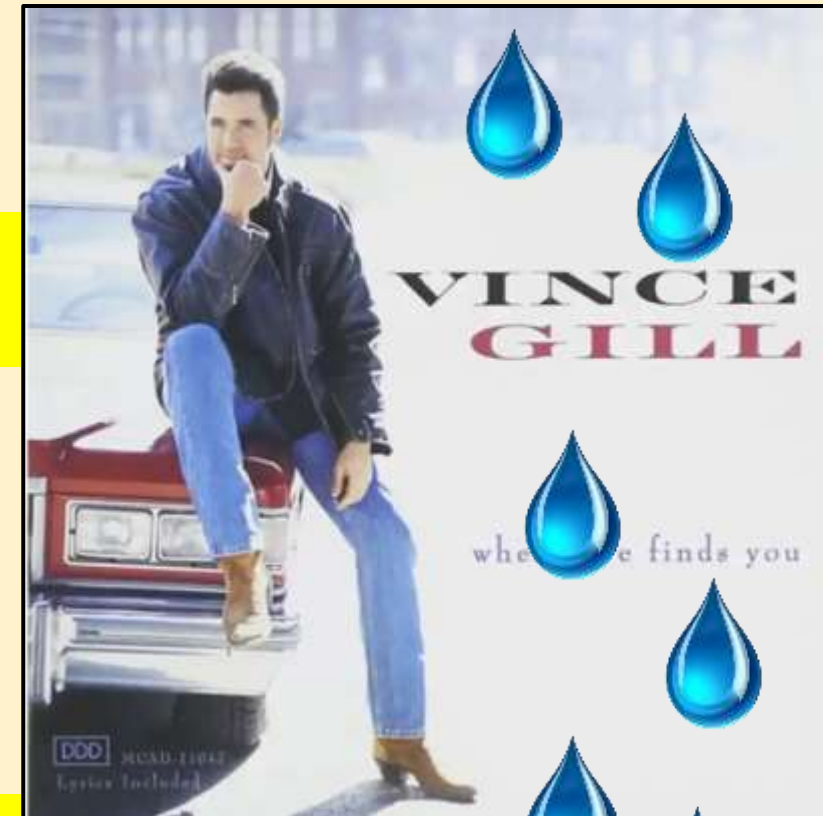
Finished in it in 1993 ... Gill's brother died

Last track of 1995 album **When Love Finds You**

Since then, it has become a classic at Nashville memorials ...

I've shed many tears with this song ... since I first heard it at the funeral of a good friend over 15 years ago

I shed more **tears of hope for THIS lesson** than any other



¹⁷ 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 forever.

Oh, Charles H. Spurgeon said on Sunday morning on September 16, 1877

Look over the list of those, beloved in the Lord, who have departed from you, to your utmost grief, and let the words of our text be a handkerchief for your tears. Sorrow not as those that are without hope, for they are with the Lord ... by-and-by you shall surely meet them where your Lord is the center of fellowship for ever and ever.



1 Thess. 4:17 **And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

Oh, Charles H. Spurgeon said in morning on
Lord's Day on September 16, 1877

The separation will be very transient;

the reunion will be everlasting.

These words are intended to comfort the saints

**I pray that they may be a cordial to any who are sick with fear,
a matchless medicine to charm away the heartache ...**

The fact that you bear about a dying body is very evident....


**You know that when a few years are gone you must go the
way whence you shall not return. But be not dismayed,**





1 Thess. 4:17 **And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

Oh, Charles H. Spurgeon said in morning on
Lord's Day on September 16, 1877



for you shall not go into a **strange country alone, unattended.**
There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother
who will not fail you nor forsake you; and, moreover,
you are going home;
your Lord will be with you while you are departing, and then
you will be ever with him.

1 Thess. 4:17 **And so we will be with the Lord *forever*.**

**Go rest high on that mountain
Son, your work on earth is done**

Vance Gill, Go Rest High on the Mountain

Video not in PDF

Alternate Title #1

Our Hope & Everlasting Rest

Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

**¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be
uninformed about those who sleep in death,
so you do not grieve like the rest of mankind,
who have no hope.**

**On Christ's resurrection rests our Faith & Hope
Paul mentions "sleep" three times: 13, 14, 15**

**Prior to Paul's revelation of Christ's coming ...
He contrasts the "sleep of death" with those who**

Have No Hope

Death causes Grief this side of heaven ...

Wherever there is Great Love ... there is Great Grief



Prior to the New Testament ... before Christ
The ancients knew NOTHING of resurrection
The ancients referred to Death as a Sleep
Homer in the *Iliad*, referred to death in battle:

“He slept the sleep of bronze”

Pagan Roman Poet Catallus (84–54 BC) viewed death as a sleep with no awakening:

“The sun can set and rise again

But once our brief light sets

There is one unending night to be slept through”

Paul nailed it – there is NO HOPE for the Pagan



Two pivotal passages enlighten, also by Paul
**1 Cor 6:14, “God raised the Lord and will also
raise us up by his power”**

**2 Cor 4:14, “He who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus”**

These are stupendous pieces ...

Everything depends upon the Christ ...

If Christ is not raised ... there is **NO** Christian Faith

If Christ is raised ... then He is Coming Again ...

A L L the World Beware



Three kinds of death in Bible ...

1. **Physical Death**, separating spirit from body
2. **Spiritual Death**, separated from God,
as in Eden from Fruit from Tree
3. **Eternal Death**, Rev. 20:14, separation from God
after the Great White Throne Judgment

¹³ Sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death
and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and
each person was judged according to what they had done.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
The lake of fire is the second death. Rev 20:13-14

In spite of grief, we have a hope that escapes the Pagan



J. Vernon McGee gave an interesting dialogue ...

Liberal Greek Scholar noted the ***SPIRITUAL*** in
1 Cor 15:44 – “It is sown a natural body;
it is raised a spiritual body.”

Therefore, there is no BODY in the afterlife,
so there is only a ***SPIRITUAL*** resurrection!

Conservative Greek Scholar asked, “What is
more important in language, *Adjective* or *Noun*?”

Read that again, and notice that ***SPIRITUAL*** modifies ***BODY***
we have this confidence, that the spiritual BODY will be

Immortal, Incorruptible – like Christ



Perhaps the most stupendous of all is 1 Cor 15

⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies ... earthly bodies;
but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is
one kind ... of the earthly bodies is another.

⁴¹ The sun has one kind of splendor,
the moon another and the stars another; and
star differs from star in splendor.

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead.

The BODY that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;

⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in **GLORY**; it is sown in
weakness, it is raised in **POWER**; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body,

it is raised a **SPIRITUAL BODY**.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 “do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

14 “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.”

**Greatest Miracle #1 - Creation of ALL from Nothing
Resurrection is the 2nd Greatest Miracle of ALL
Several Striking Revelations were given to Paul**

1st Striking Revelation – Awakened Dead Return with Christ

We do not know HOW Paul received this revelation ...

God Revealed to Paul ... Church as accepted it ...



¹⁵ 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.



¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,
1. with a loud command, with the
2. voice of the archangel and with the
3. trumpet call of God, and
the dead in Christ will rise first.

2nd Striking Revelation – Christ Comes Down from Heaven

This COMING is with a **Command, Voice, Trumpet**

3rd Striking Revelation – Dead Will Rise First, *then* Come

Christ Comes Down from Heaven

What a Revelation ... yet there was a PREVIEW
Acts 1:11

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky?

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the SAME WAY you have seen him go into heaven.”

In the Same Way!



¹⁶ 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.

With a **LOUD** Command, **VOICE** of Archangel, and **TRUMPET** call of God

1. Some say it is the Lord's command ... that is ... Command is **LIKE** the Voice of Angel & Trumpet
2. Others the Command & Voice announce Christ, via Angel with **THE** Trumpet Call of God – *Take Your Pick*

POINT

Everyone's Gonna Know



17 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 forever.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

What a passage: “caught up ... with them”

“THEM” = the Awakened Dead

4th Striking Revelation – Alive Caught Up to Meet the Dead

5th Striking Revelation – We Will Be with the Lord *Forever*





**“Caught up” is the “rapture” ... a snatching up
How does that synch with the “Thief in the Night”?
How does the coming of “Thief in the Night” synch
with a Loud-Shout Every-Eye Rapture?**

Are there TWO Second Comings?

**I do not know ... not convinced we CAN know for sure
Perhaps “Thief in the Night” = perspective of LOST = off guard
Vision of SNATCHED naked—clothes left behind in car seat
is a bit far-fetched ... to me**

What is certain ... made clear ... is that

When Christ Comes—We'll be with Him *Forever*

**God gave Paul 5 Striking Revelations of the Future
5 Revelations ONLY God Knew ... that God has Planned
5 Revelations that are SPECIFIC Miracles to the Future
After Creation & Christ's Resurrection, they form the**



3rd Greatest Miracle – Second Coming Christ

- 1st Striking Revelation** – Awakened Dead Return with Christ
- 2nd Striking Revelation** – Christ Comes Down from Heaven
- 3rd Striking Revelation** – Dead Will Rise First, *then* Come
- 4th Striking Revelation** – Alive Caught Up to Meet the Dead
- 5th Striking Revelation** – We Will Be with the Lord *Forever*

“Be with the Lord forever” in 3 lights says Charles H. Spurgeon



Continuance:

we are with the Lord even now & ever shall be



Advancement:

We shall ere long be more fully with the Lord



Coherence:

both are & shall be w him in a close remarkable manner.

Spurgeon remembers a notable preacher saying,

“For ever **life, for ever **light**, for ever **love**, for ever **peace**,**

for ever **rest, for ever **joy**.” What a chain of delights!**

**“Be with the Lord forever” in 3 lights
says Charles H. Spurgeon**



Coherence: w him in a close remarkable manner.

**Spurgeon recalls the trials of the Lord, the temptations
and the persecution of the saints**

He has been with us in all of these, in all ways ... all the time

Then our Lord went to paradise, and you will go there too.

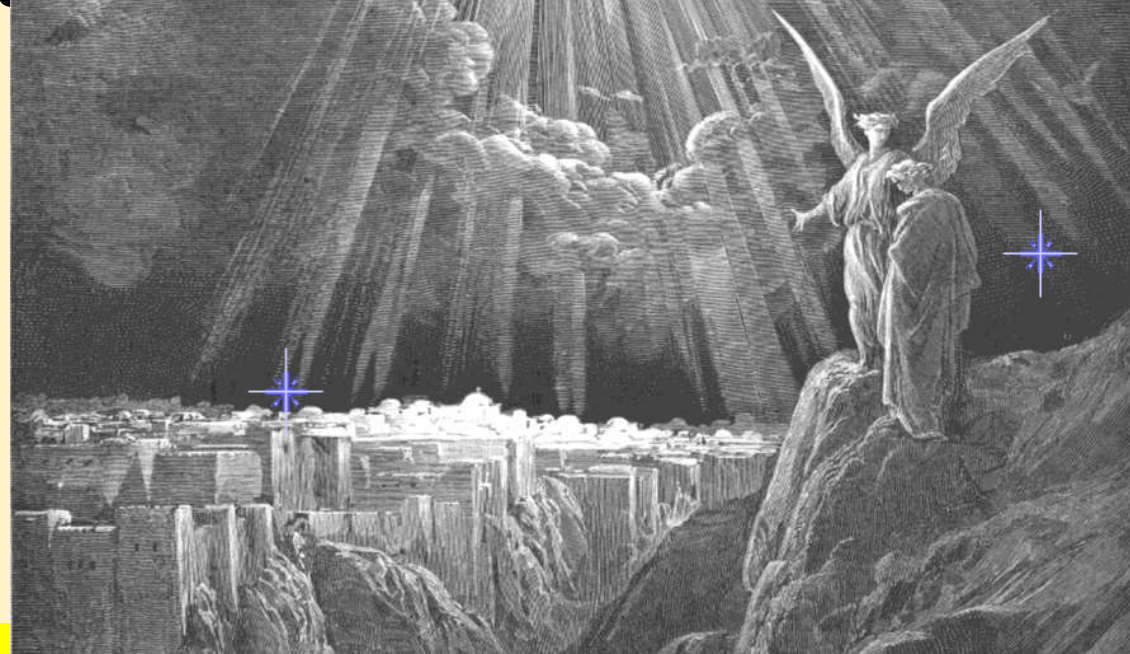
**You shall enjoy a sojourn where he went.... You shall be with
him ... then ... you shall rise when your third morning cometh.**

“What is heaven?” the great Spurgeon asked.

**“Be with the Lord forever” in 3 lights
says Charles H. Spurgeon**



It is the place which his **love** suggested,
which his **genius** invented,
which his **bounty** provided,
which his **royalty** has adorned,
which his **wisdom** has prepared,
which he himself **glorifies**;



**in that heaven you are to be with him for ever.
You shall dwell in the King's own palace.**

Its gates of pearl and streets of gold
shall NOT be too good for you.

You who **LOVE** him are to abide for ever **WITH** him,
not near him in a secondary place, not as

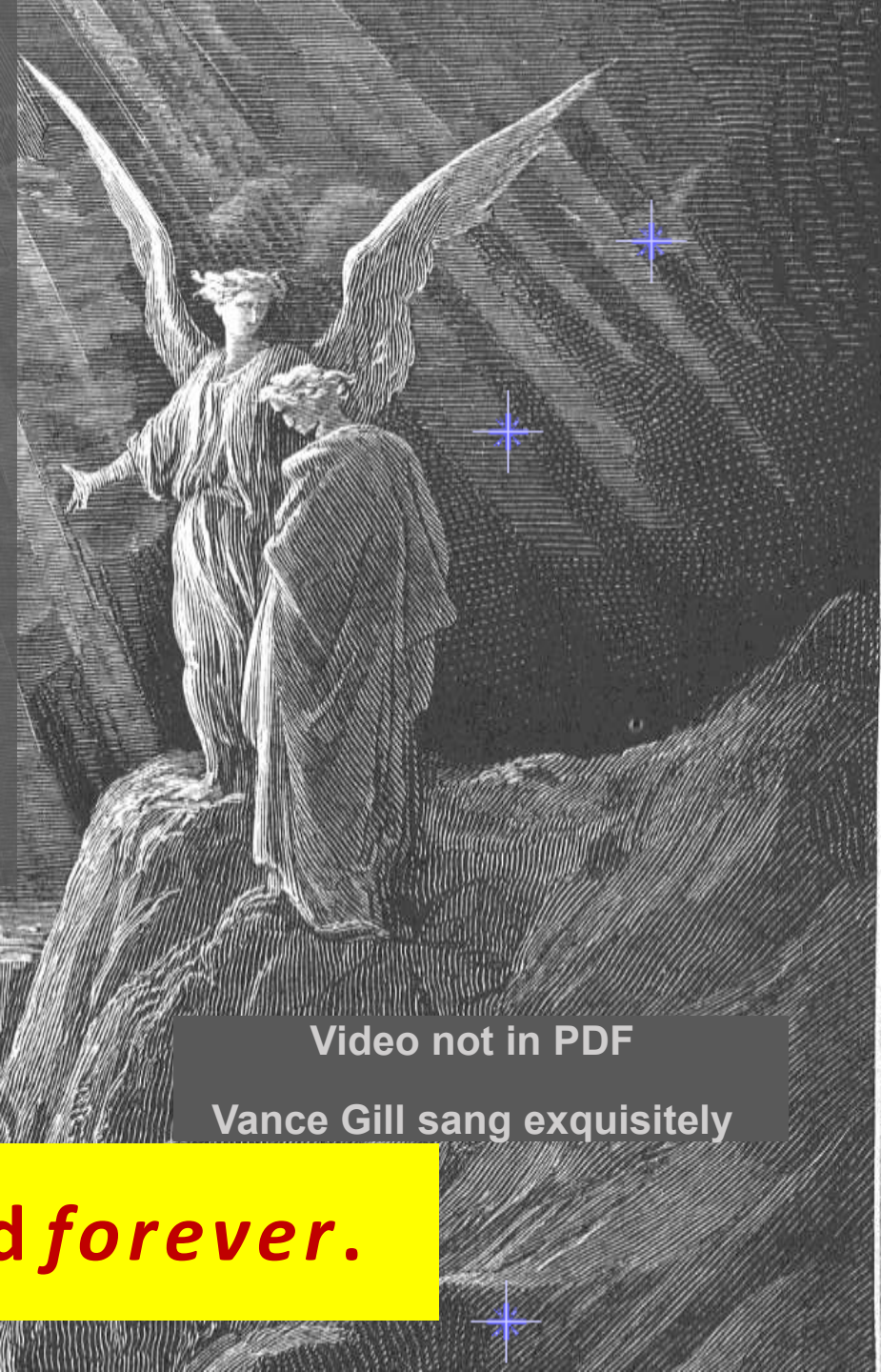


**Not as a servant lives at the lodge gate of a master's mansion
but **WITH him** in the self-same palace in the
metropolis of the universe.**

**I prayed & said of
several loved ones
As I pray will be
Said of me ...
Said of YOU ...
When we pass from
this coal ship to our
Gold-bearing ship**



Oh, how we cried the day you left us
We gathered 'round your grave to grieve
Wish I could see the angels' faces
When they hear your sweet voice sing
Go rest high on that mountain
Son, your work on earth is done
Go to heaven a-shoutin'
Love for the Father and the Son



Video not in PDF

Vance Gill sang exquisitely

4:17 And so we will be *with* the Lord *forever*.