

# CHRISTIANITY

FOR  
SCEPTICS, ENQUIRERS & BELIEVERS

A very warm welcome

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## Notices:

**1. Christmas!** Please join us for our Christmas events over the next couple of weeks. Visit our [website](#) for further details. Do invite colleagues to join us.

Thursday 10 December      **Is there any hope this Christmas?**      1.05 - 1.35pm

Thursday 10 December      **Carol Service** ([reserve a ticket](#))      6.30 - 7.20pm

**2. Talk Recordings.** Enjoyed today's talk? Want to share it with others?

Recordings of our talks are made available online each Friday. Visit our [website](#) to view our full library.

**3. New?** Please fill in a [contact card](#) to receive a weekly reminder email from the St Nick's Talks.

[Talk recordings & info](#) | [www.stnickstalks.org](http://www.stnickstalks.org)

## Reading:

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **15** For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Christian has a hope of a glorious future

### i. The Lord will descend

### ii. The dead in Christ will rise

*"Some day you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."*

### iii. Those who are alive will join them

#### **Questions:**

What do you find most encouraging about these words? How might you summarise them for others?

How should they alter the way that we grieve? v13 - "you may not grieve as others..."

How often do we think about those who are 'asleep'? Are we envious? What must it be like to be with Jesus?