



“Our friends, we want you to know the truth about atthose who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope.” (1Th 4:13 GNB)

This verse is a prominent scripture that puts the bitter death of a loved one or friend in unique, biblical perspective. You have one of two choices in viewing death. You can view it through the eye glasses of how God sees death, or, make no mistake, you can view it through the eye glasses of what you think you know about death.

One is limited and will inevitably lead to sadness, sorrow, grief and pain as those who have no hope. The truth, however, will lead you to hope, trust in your Heavenly Father, love, contentment, and joy. For the Bible says God gives life to the dead. (Rom 4:17)

The apostle Paul is putting the eye glasses of how God views death on the eyes of the believers in city of Thessalonica. He is stating, in essence, when you know the truth about those who have died (your friends and loved ones) you will not be sad, as others who don't know the truth.

So what is the truth? The Bible says Heaven is a place where there is no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. (Rev 21:4) In Heaven, those whom we love are not experiencing any pain, unlike us, who can be feeling the pain and grief of their death. Truth is, whether you realize it or not, God loves your loved ones and friends more than you do. Our finite or limited minds have a difficult time comprehending an infinite or limitless God. Just look at the stars; no human can explain the universe's vastness and intricacy. Paul writes, "...to know the Love of Christ which passes knowledge." (Eph 3:19) God's love and glory, like the universe, surpasses any knowledge we think we might have. Moses asked God to see His glory and God told him not to look at his face or he would die. (Ex 33:20) It passes our knowledge base as to why anyone would die from looking at the Lord's face. It is the same with the height, depth, length, and width of His love. His love surpasses what we have ever thought, imagined, or individually experienced in our lives.

When you know the truth about death, Heaven, and God's infinite love, light will shine upon your heart. You will have no other choice, in faith, but to turn your grief into tears of joy.

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