2 Corinthians 1:3–4
3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts
us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. {NIV}

Revelation 21:3–4
3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s
dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with
them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them
and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their
eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or
pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” {NIV}

✝ **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and giving us the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. When we're grieving, comfort our hearts. When we're afraid, remind us of Your faithfulness. Help us trust You with the things we don't understand and the future we cannot see. Give us courage to live faithfully today and help us encourage others who are going through difficult times. We place our lives, our loved ones, and our future in Your hands. Strengthen our faith and help us live each day with the confidence that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

When You Don't Know What's Coming…Remember Who Is
Series: Keep Moving
Dr. J Frank Howard
November 1, 2026
All Saints Day
Kingswood Church
Rural Hall, NC

✝ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
**13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be
uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you 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. 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,
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. 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.
{NIV}**

✝ **Mainline: The more I _____ God's _____ for _____, the less I _____ what _____ _____.**

✝ **The Word…on the Word:**

Some days, life brings more questions than answers. You're waiting for a call from the doctor, wondering how you'll pay the bills, or missing someone you love. You want to trust God, but you still find yourself asking, "How am I going to get through this? What if things don't get better?" You're not the first person to ask those questions. The Christians Paul wrote to had worries about the future, too. In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul shares an encouraging message that can help us face life's uncertainties with greater faith, renewed confidence, and the assurance that God hasn't forgotten us.

✝ **Think About This:**

(1) What does Paul want believers to understand about those who have died, and what difference should that understanding make in the way we grieve? {1 Thessalonians 4:13}

(2) What does Paul say about the death and resurrection of Jesus, and how does that truth give us confidence about the future of those who have died in Christ? {1 Thessalonians 4:14}

(3) What does Paul promise will happen to believers who have died when Jesus returns, and why would that have been especially encouraging to the Thessalonian Christians? {1 Thessalonians 4:15–16}

(4) What does Paul's promise that we will be with the Lord forever teach us about the future God has prepared for those who belong to Jesus? {1 Thessalonians 4:17}

(5) Why does Paul end this teaching by telling Christians to encourage one another, and how can we follow that instruction when someone we know is grieving or afraid? {1 Thessalonians 4:18}

✝ **Three Real Life Applications:**

(1) Hold On To Hope When Your Heart Is Hurting

~1 Thessalonians 4:13

Even when you miss someone you love, you can find hope in what God has promised.

(2) Let What Jesus Did In The Past Give Your Confidence About Your Future

~1 Thessalonians 4:14–17

What Jesus has already done gives us confidence in what He has promised to do.

(3) Help Someone Else Hold On To Hope

~1 Thessalonians 4:18

The hope that helps you can help someone else.

✝ **Bible Passages for Further Study:**

John 11:25–26

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26** and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" {NIV}

1 Corinthians 15:20–23

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. {NIV}

Romans 8:38–39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any

powers,[39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is
in Christ Jesus our Lord. {NIV}