

1. Thessalonians — Chap.<sup>th</sup> V. 19-18<sup>th</sup>

I would not have you to be ignorant  
It is justly said by the Apostle, if God long  
is probable or true it is of Religion Doubtless  
~~our~~ our joys, at the same time it greatly  
diminishes our sorrows. whoever  
temporal Happiness a <sup>dear</sup> man enjoys, he  
has by anticipation, the joys of eternity  
also added to it: while his griefs whatever  
they may be, are also proportionally  
mitigated, by the Consideration of the  
Shortness of their nature, and their  
glorious end. This St. Paul intimates  
in the Passage before us — There were  
some Christians in the Thessalonian  
Church, that had given way to sorrow  
in an unbecoming manner, so that



respect, they could scarcely be distinguished  
from converted Heathens around them.  
To correct this, the Ap. tells them of y<sup>e</sup>  
glorious Prospects w<sup>h</sup> they have in y<sup>e</sup>  
eternal G<sup>d</sup> and begs them to look forward  
to their future happy state, as the best  
means of quieting their minds, under all  
the painful circumstances, w<sup>h</sup> might  
at any time occur. In the words  
which we have just read, he declares  
1.<sup>o</sup> The Certainty of a Resurrection  
2.<sup>o</sup> The order in which it shall be  
effected. And 3.<sup>o</sup> the blessed Hope of  
it to the Saints —

1.<sup>o</sup> The Certainty. The Heathens quite  
devoid of the Idea of the Resurrection —  
When St. Paul was preaching at Athens

we are informed, that some of the Epicu-  
-rean Philosophers encountered him. Some  
said, what will this Babbler say, others  
said, he seems to be a setter forth of  
strange Gods, because he preached  
unto them & they did not believe in this  
Doctrine, for they considered, that it was  
totally incredible that y<sup>e</sup> sh<sup>d</sup>. raise y<sup>e</sup>  
Dead. There were some in the Church  
who did not understand this Doctrine  
in the sense which the Ap. wished them —  
They considered it rather a spiritual  
Resurrection, than a real Resurrection  
of the body. However St. Paul assured  
them, that it was a Doctrine, upon w<sup>h</sup>  
they might fully depend, and took  
forward to with the fullest assurance  
that God would assuredly raise their  
bodies



from the Dead, as certainly as he  
had raised A. from the Dead, and as  
they did believe in the Death; and the  
Resurrection of A. as multitudes saw  
him die; and multitudes saw him  
after he rose from the Dead, on these  
two facts all Christianity was founded  
namely if Jes. died for our sins & rose  
if Jes. was not risen, all their Faith in  
him, and all their Hope & blessed  
promises were vain. These facts  
being admitted the Resurrection, <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~  
w. follow & become. The Resurrection  
of A. was an undeniable evidence by  
God, can raise the Dead, and it is also a  
pledge that he will. The same almighty  
Power that raised him <sup>can</sup> raise  
from the Dead <sup>all who believe</sup> with equal force.

3.  
Had Jes. risen merely as an individual  
we might have supposed it possible, that if  
Power exerted in his behalf, would not be  
secured for us. But as the ~~same~~ <sup>same</sup> ~~Head~~ <sup>Head</sup>  
Head of his People: and what was done for  
him as the Head, shall also be done  
for all his <sup>in one time</sup> members. He is the first  
fruits of them. now the first fruits  
sanctified and secured the whole Harvest  
we may therefore be assured, if <sup>he is</sup> ~~as~~ our  
forerunner <sup>is gone to</sup> to glory, we shall follow  
him in due season. now says the Ap.  
is A. risen, & before he went to glory, he  
~~went to glory~~ he told his Disciples, that  
in his Father's House there were many  
mansions, if it were not so I would  
have told you. I go to h.



And Saint Paul, when writing to the  
Hebrews tells them, that Jes. their Pre-  
-runner is entered for them within the  
veil, and is made an High Priest  
for ever. Again, the Apostle in the Acts  
assures us that God hath appointed a  
Day in which he will judge of our  
Righteousness by that man whom he  
hath ordained: whereof he hath given  
assurance unto all men, in that he  
raised him from the Dead. Thus you  
see St. Paul, laid much stress upon  
the Doctrine of the Resurrection. —

For the better Instruction of ~~believers~~  
those that believe, that Jes. Dead could  
rise again, the Ap. points out in the  
2<sup>d</sup>. place the order in which it will be

This perhaps is a matter of Curiosity,  
rather than than of any great practical  
importance: but the Ap. was anxious  
that the Thessalonians sh<sup>d</sup>. not be ignorant  
of it, and therefore it is not undeserving  
of our attention. First then the Resurre-  
-ction will take place in the following  
order. First the Dead will be raised from  
their Graves — All that have ever departed  
out of the <sup>W</sup>orld from the beginning to the  
End of time will be restored to Life, each  
clothed in his own proper body. The Sea  
and the Grave will give up all that  
have been ~~intombed~~ intombed in them;  
and they shall all live again. St. John tells  
us I saw the Sea give up the Dead of men  
in it: and Death and Hell delivered up the  
Dead of men in them —



and they were judged every man according  
to their works. The text indeed speaks of  
the righteous only, who had fallen asleep  
in Jesus, but in other passages we are informed  
that the ungodly also shall hear the voice  
of the Lord ~~of~~, and in obedience to that  
angelic summons, shall come forth  
from their graves. our Sav<sup>r</sup> said unto his  
disciples - marvel not at this: for the  
hour is coming ~~when~~ <sup>when</sup> all that are  
in their graves shall <sup>hear this voice and</sup> come forth <sup>then</sup>  
The prophet Daniel speaks clearly upon  
the same important subject. many  
of them if sleep in the dust of the  
Earth shall awake, some to everlasting  
Life, and some to everlasting shame  
and contempt - Irresistible will be the  
summons. when the voice of the

of the Archangel, and the Trumpet of God  
shall sound. when Jes. saith in his state  
of humiliation, thousands withstood his  
voice; but none will have power to do  
so, when he shall come a second time  
in his own glory &c. The great and mighty,  
as well as the mean, and insignificant  
of the Earth, shall all come forth alike,  
each reunited to his kindred body, and  
each appearing in his own proper  
character - the righteous of the right-  
eous, shall be so in this order will all who  
are in their graves come forth to life.  
next those who remain alive upon Earth  
will be changed. Certainly those who are  
alive on the Earth will not be changed  
first; and it appears that they will  
remain unchanged, while all who ever  
died are restored to life



what a sight will it be to see all the sons  
and daughters of Adam, bursting forth from  
their graves, standing up an innumerable  
host in their incorruptible ~~bodies~~, and  
glorified bodies. But this being once effected,  
the people who are then alive upon earth,  
will be changed in an instant, in the very  
twinkling of an eye; their mortal and  
~~corruptible~~ corruptible bodies, becoming at once  
without any disposition preparatory to  
it, incorruptible and immortal. This  
is the order which St. Paul hath  
specified in another Epistle, first the  
triumph shall come, then the rising  
of the Dead, then follows the changing  
of the living - He has his own words, the  
I remember ~~who~~ will say the ~~Ap~~  
call this a great mystery -

a mystery past our present comprehension.  
But as all will then be in that form  
which they will bear to all eternity,  
what an amazing difference will then  
appear in those who once resembled  
each other; the good, how beautiful  
in holiness and glory; the ungodly, how  
deformed, having eternal servitude  
depicted in their countenances. - Then  
says the Ap. will they all be caught  
up to meet the ~~S.~~ in the air; yes into  
the presence of their Judge must they  
go; and as the earth will not be  
large enough for the occasion, they  
must all meet the ~~S.~~ in the air -  
what a ~~deep~~ <sup>deep</sup> humors will this be to  
the righteous - on that day they will know  
if their Redemption is fully come



with what infinite joy will they go  
forth to meet their Lord, whom <sup>they</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>having</sup>  
seen before, they loved, and out of whose  
fullness they received all the grace that  
~~was~~ ever they hoped; their <sup>spirits</sup> ~~now being~~  
now being made perfect; and their  
faces beamed like unto Asaph's  
body. on the other hand, with what  
reluctance and terror, are the ungodly  
dragged to the bar of judgment. How will  
they cry ~~from the rocks~~ where they stand  
from their graves, for the rocks to fall  
upon, and the hills to cover them —  
Thousands who were once the great  
and noble of the earth, and in their  
day neglected their salvation, and believed  
not the Gospel, will be in this <sup>state</sup> ~~condition~~  
as well as the poor and ignorant —

St. John in the Revelation, describes this  
day in the following words. The heavens  
departed as a scroll when it is rolled together  
and every mountain and island were moved  
out of their places. and the kings of the  
earth, and the great men, and the rich  
men, and the chief captains, and the  
mighty men; and every bondman and  
every free man hid themselves in the  
dens, and in the rocks of the mountains  
and said to the mountains and rocks  
fall upon us. Having stated this, he then  
declares the blessed issue of this day to  
the saints, they shall be ever &c. &c.  
known how they will receive a sentence  
of acquittal, or rather an unspeakable  
approbation. — He has told us in what  
words he <sup>addressed</sup> his people. — ~~Large~~  
well done good, and faithful servants



to his right Hand will they be called, as  
a prelude to the Honour he is about  
to bestow upon them. The Judgment  
being finished, he ascends with all his holy  
Attendants with him to the Heaven &  
Heavens the immediate Residence is  
the City, and there his redeemed People  
ascend up with him, to behold his glory  
in all its unveiled Splendor, and  
to share his Throne, as he shared his  
Mother's Throne. can you? in his last  
Prayer before he ascended, said Father  
I will that there be a what fulness of  
Joy do they now possess! his Promise  
to all his People is, to him that cryeth  
unto me, will I give to sit with me  
on my Throne, as I ever came and  
can sit down on my Father's  
Throne

Having stated ~~the~~ ~~idea~~, he declares in  
the 3<sup>d</sup> Place the blessed Hope of it to  
Saints. They shall be for ever to it.  
what unspeakable <sup>joy</sup> will they then possess  
How bright their vision of his glory  
How unbounded their vision of ~~the~~  
his Love. nothing can now add to their  
velocity nor can any thing now  
detract from it. It is true they may have  
come out of great Tribulation, but now  
they have washed their robes in the  
Blood of Lamb; therefore are they  
before the Throne of God, and serve  
him day and night in his Temple  
and he that sitteth on the Throne  
shall dwell among them. They shall  
hunger no more, they shall thirst  
no more, for the Lamb that is in  
the midst of the Throne shall



and shall lead them up to living fountains  
of water and God shall wipe away all  
tears from their Eyes. That which consti-  
tutes the chief ingredients of the Happiness  
of the Saints is, it is eternal Joy. were  
their happiness to be only for a fixed  
period, however long, it would not be  
complete. The very Idea that it would end,  
would rob it of half its velocity. but it  
will be pure, and endless as the Deity  
himself - But alas how different will be  
the condition of the ungodly. They will be  
commanded to depart from him into  
everlasting misery; or into everlasting  
fire prepared for the Devil and his Angels  
Alas what weeping, what wailing, what  
gnashing of Teeth will they then  
experience - And also for ever, and for  
ever, good would it have been if they had  
never been born -

Let us now improve this important  
subject 1<sup>st</sup> in a way of mutual consolation  
Have any of us been bereaved of our near  
and Dear Friends, who were in their Day  
Lovers of our Saviour? Let us not grieve for  
them, as those who have no hope; what  
tho' they shall not come again to ~~me~~, no,  
we shall hear them no more, we shall  
see them no more on this side the  
Grave; it is but a little time, and we  
shall go to them, if we are partakers  
of the precious Faith which they profess  
and are following their Foot Steps -  
what an happy meeting shall we have  
at the right Hand of God. Are we  
terrified at the Thought of our own  
approaching Death - Let us remember  
it is but a Sleep, a falling a sleep



in the Arms of Jes. what is there terrible  
in this - David had no fears when Death  
approached him - He declares that I walk  
Jeh. had none - I know that my Redeemer  
St. Stephen had none - he saw Jes.  
standing at St. Paul had none -  
the Hour of his Death, was the happiest  
he had ever experienced - Let then the  
pious Christian put away all his  
uncheering fears, and learn to number  
Death amongst his richest Treasures -  
for Death will be his eternal gain -  
Lastly we would exhort <sup>to consider</sup> all ~~to~~ well to  
~~consider~~ this important Doctrine,  
the Resurrection of the Dead. we  
shall all appear before Christs Judge  
Seat in our proper Persons  
as we have already shewn

and the thought of meeting our God  
and Judge, ought to fill us with solemn  
Awe - If we were to judge from the  
general Conduct of those around us  
we might be led to conclude that there  
are very few who ~~believe~~ believe the  
Scriptures, or that God will do as he hath  
said. He has told us he will bring every  
thing into Judgment - Does the profane  
Infidel believe this - I answer he  
does not - or our public Streets would  
not ring with the horrid outcries  
as they do every Year of the Day -  
Let us here what St. Paul says upon  
this very important subject to the  
Corinthians - I now ye not that ye  
understand ~~that~~ not inherit the  
Kingdom of God



he not Deceived says the ~~other~~  
amongst the unrighteous he includes  
the following Characters. Fornicators  
Idolaters, Aduisers, Obstructors, Drunk-  
ards, Revilers, Extortioners, Murders, &c.  
conventions - none of these say, the ~~Ap~~  
shall inherit the Kingdom of God -  
among such Characters we have  
amongst us. If the <sup>to be separated</sup> ~~neglecters~~ were now  
by the infinite wisdom of God, from  
the wicked, who know men's real  
Characters, how few would there be  
admitted to the <sup>amongst us</sup> Kingdom of God, not  
one of those Characters the ~~Ap~~ mentioned  
can have any claim to the  
Divine mercy - nor will they  
receive it at the awful day of Judgment

Prepare then ye careless and ungodly  
men to meet your God - meet  
him you must - for all that are in  
their Graves shall hear his voice and  
come forth - Oh think, you, who are  
living in sin or secret sins, how  
will you abide the day of his coming  
or stand when he appeareth. we  
shall all see him come to judge &  
for every Eye shall see him -  
All who are in this congregation  
shall be present at his ~~man~~ - I shall  
then answer for my Preaching, God  
hath already told me, if I warn  
not the wicked, the wicked shall be  
I therefore warn all here present this  
day that they repent and turn to  
God without Delay - now is your  
accepted time, this is the day of your  
visitation -



to morrow may be too late. To mor-  
row you may be lifting up your Eyes  
in Torments - you cannot tell what a  
day may bring forth - we know by  
time is short, and that it is wrong then  
madness to procrastinate our Repen-  
tance - to a more convenient season -  
Thousands have done this, and have  
been eternally ruined - I am com-  
mended to warn every man, to entreat  
every man to turn to God and live - What Joy  
would there be in Heaven if only one  
in this Congregation would repent -  
For there is joy in the presence of the  
Angels of God & ~~to~~ one would imagine if  
this Declaration would induce all to  
come to God and live, but let us see

may earnest with the Prophet, and  
say who hath believed our Report R.  
unless it is the Lord that receives mens souls -  
There is no man high or low rich  
or poor, who believes Gods word, ~~that~~  
that can continue to live an ungodly  
Life - Let me entreat you to pray to God  
to awaken you to a love of your soul  
and danger - and ~~excite~~ <sup>excite</sup> you  
to prepare to meet death and judgment.  
two solemn periods to which you must  
come. Let me warn you, that if your  
Peace is not made with God, <sup>now</sup> you  
will have no Advocate in the hour  
of Death and in the Day of Judgment  
none to plead for you, and that God  
who made you will have no mercy upon  
you.



keep them the land while he may be  
found call upon him while he is  
near — that your souls may live and  
not die — If ~~not~~ after what you have  
heard this day, of the Resurrection of  
the Dead, of the Day of Judgment,  
of the ~~happiness~~ of the ~~Righteous~~  
eternal happiness of the Righteous,  
and the eternal ~~misery~~ <sup>miser</sup> of the  
wicked, you still continue in sin  
and unbelief you must perish and  
that without remedy — If God once  
swear in his wrath that you shall  
never enter into his Rest, you will  
be ruined for ever — for then there  
will remain no more sacrifice  
for sin —