



# APPNOTES

**Date:** July 9-13, 2018

**Series:** This I Believe

**John 11:11-13** Napping. It's one of my favorite activities. There is nothing like getting some good sleep. It helps your body heal, it revives your mind, and gives clarity during murky times. It gives you the strength to face another day, when those days are dark indeed. In these verses, Jesus equates death with sleep, and that may seem a little odd to our modern eyes. But the truth of the matter is, as believers, when we close our eyes that very last time, they will open upon the face of Jesus. We won't wake to a day filled with work, grief, weariness, or pain. We will awaken to a new life; a life where we get to leave all of that behind and dwell in contentment, safety and peace with our Lord. Just take a second, close your eyes and think on that! I'll keep enjoying my naps for now. One day I won't need them anymore.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13** When I turn to this passage, I do two things: 1. I smile and, 2. I think of my grandmother. My grandmother was the closest thing I had to a mother, and since her passing, I miss her a lot. I still think about calling her when something happens, asking her for recipe, wanting to know what she thinks of a Bible verse I discovered, and wanting to hear her laugh. Even though she is gone, I am not overwhelmed with agony due to her loss, because I know I will see her again. I know. Why? Because this verse tells me that. She was a follower of Christ, as am I, and our separation is just temporary. She has simply reached home before I have. As followers of Christ, this is one of the most peace-giving aspects of our lives. Death is just a separation, it isn't final. So yes, we grieve, but not without the hope given that death is only temporary to those who believe in Jesus.

**2 Peter 1:16** Fake News! Alternative truth! Buzzwords of today. They're tossed around in the media a lot recently. In this second letter written by Peter, he takes time to assure his readers. Peter wasn't a well-educated man, he was a blue-collar worker. He lived in the real world, where you worked hard, lived paycheck to paycheck and he would not have been into cultural gossip. He definitely wouldn't have been into Keeping up with the Kardashians. In this verse he says, firmly, his teachings, our beliefs, are not based in 'fairy tales' and 'urban legends'. No, he was an eyewitness to the accounts concerning Jesus, and he can testify to them being absolutely true, because he was there. Today, we can be assured that everything we are reading in His word, everything we believe is true, because real people leading real lives saw, experienced, and then told us about it. They saw and believed; we believe and one day will see for ourselves.

**1 Peter 1:3** When I was looking into this verse, I took a peek at the first two verses of this letter that Peter wrote and saw that he was writing to people who were living in exile! Yikes, talk about a group of people who need hope, right? We're not talking about the 'I hope I get an xBox for Christmas' type of hope. We're talking about the 'I know I haven't seen it, but I believe it' type of hope. Did you know the word hope is mentioned 71 times in the Bible and 70 of those times were after the crucifixion? I was blown away by that. The resurrection of Christ is the greatest source of hope for us. Without the resurrection Jesus would simply have been another good man who lived and died. That would have been the end of His story. His resurrection changed everything. Not only that, but there were hundreds of witnesses that attested to seeing Him again. We don't have to guess or worry that the Word isn't true. Now that's life-empowering hope!

**Hebrews 2:14-15** I am absolutely terrified of cockroaches. I am talking break down crying, complete hysterics, burn-them-all terror. Although my response to my fear may be a little extreme, everybody has something like that; spiders, snakes, flying, heights, etc. But a pretty universal fear is dying. We can totally understand why. There is so much unknown for a lot of people. As Christians, a lot of those questions are answered. We don't know the exact time or manner of our death, but we do know what happens after. We don't need to struggle with fear of the unknown. We pass from this life into the life that waits for us with Jesus and the place He's been preparing just for us. What is there to fear if we've placed our faith in Him? Death is inevitable for all, but for those who believe in Jesus, it's not the end. It's the beginning of so much more!

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