

# DESTINED

“If we find in ourselves a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy,  
the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

- C.S. Lewis

## THE LESSON: EXCERPTS FROM PAUL’S LETTERS

The Apostle Paul is one of the most interesting figures in the New Testament. The Book of Acts tells much of his story—how he went from persecuting and hunting down Christians, to becoming a convert himself and then facing great challenges (and eventually martyrdom) to preach the Gospel to the early churches.

The Bible texts we’re about to look at are taken from two of the letters that the Apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians. Each of these letters was written to a unique church with specific concerns, but both have been included in our Bible because the Church recognized that these teachings have relevance for all Christians no matter where or when they live.

The specific passages that we are about to look at explore the “eschatological” (end times) hope that believers have.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

At home, find a quiet space and spend some time reflecting on what it means that God KNOWS you completely, LOVES you unconditionally, and that he has DESTINED you for eternity.

Ask him to help you see yourself through his eyes: who you are and what he has for you to do.

Then spend a few minutes in silence, listening for his voice.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

*O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, who know thee now by faith, may be led onward through this earthly life, until we see the vision of thy heavenly glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.* (COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD, BCP PAGE 117)

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## PART ONE: **1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 15**

<sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality... <sup>57</sup>thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

## PART TWO: **1<sup>ST</sup> THESSALONIANS 4**

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.