The Inside Story of Your Future Life
The Gathering
February 4-5, 2012
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Opening Question
What's something you consider too daring to try (i.e. bungee jumping)?

Scripture
Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Suggested Prayer
Father, You are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. You don't faint or grow weary and Your understanding is infinite. As we look at these great truths concerning our gathering together with You, help us to understand them and how these truths motivate us in our walk with You. In Your Son's name, Amen.

Discussion Questions – Choose as few or as many as you'd like.

1. As you read through this passage, answer the following questions:
    a. How can these truths encourage you in your walk with Christ?

    b. How does this passage stimulate you to share the gospel with others?

2. Three times in verses 13-18 the Apostle Paul uses the word 'asleep' to describe those who have died in Christ. Why do you think he uses this word? Would it help to use this word to comfort those who have lost loved ones in the Lord? Why or why not?

3. The title of Colin's message is "The Gathering". What do you look forward to the most about being gathered together with all believers throughout history?

4. How does our gathering together each weekend as a body of believers for worship can be a preview of our gathering together with the Lord?

5. In the last verse, the Apostle Paul states, "Therefore encourage one another with these words." Under what circumstances can we best use the words of verses 13-18 to encourage others?

6. What was your take away from the sermon?

Suggested Closing Prayer

Lord, as we anticipate our gathering together with You, help us to use these words with sensitivity to encourage those who face difficult circumstances. We also pray that You would show us how these truths apply in our own lives. May we always be excited about that day when we will be gathered together with all of Your people. In Jesus name, Amen.