

THE COMMON FAITH

To Titus, genuine child according to the common faith – Titus
1:4

Item 8

Christ is Coming Again
to Receive His believers
to Himself



FIRST THESSALONIANS

- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Are not even you?
- **1 Thessalonians 3:13** So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:14-18** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so also those who have fallen asleep through Jesus, God will bring with Him. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are living, who are left remaining unto the coming of the Lord, shall by no means precede those who have fallen asleep; because the Lord Himself, with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are living, who are left remaining, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will be always with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Do you notice something in common among these verses?...
- Every chapter of first Thessalonians ends with the Lord's coming back.
- The Lord's coming is His presence with us. The Greek word rendered "coming" in verse 2:19 is parousia, a word that means presence.
- How do you see Christ's second coming as being His presence?



Ephesians 2:12 That you were at that time apart from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Because of man's fall there is no hope for the fallen human race. In Ephesians 2:12 Paul describes the **hopeless** situation of unbelievers. Because they are apart from Christ and their living is without God, they do not have any hope.

1Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are sleeping, that you would not grieve even as also the rest who have no hope.

THE HOPELESS SITUATION DUE TO MAN'S FALL

Why would unbelievers grieve and be hopeless?



1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so also those who have fallen asleep through Jesus, God will bring with Him.

That God will bring the believers with Jesus Christ at His second coming, means that they will be raptured! Therefore, the believers do not grieve because of death and are not hopeless because they will always be with the Lord!

To believe in the hope described here includes believing in the Lord's resurrection. Anyone who does not believe in Christ's resurrection will not believe in this hope. But if we believe in this hope, this indicates that we have already believed in Christ's resurrection.

As those who believe in Christ, we have a life full of hope. Our hope is the Lord's coming back. Paul's intention is to give the new believers a basic concept of the hope of our Christian life. He wants to impress them with the fact that the Christian life, which is a holy life for the church life, has a hope. Therefore, this life is absolutely different from the hopeless life of fallen mankind.

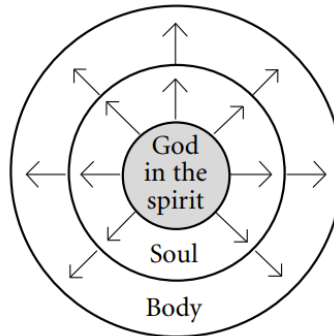
THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The hope of the Christian life is the Lord's coming back, and this hope includes resurrection and rapture.



1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After regeneration, a believer needs to be baptized (Mark 16:16). Then God begins the lifelong process of gradually spreading Himself as life from the believer's spirit into his soul (Eph. 3:17). This process, called transformation (Rom. 12:2), requires human cooperation (Phil. 2:12). The believer cooperates by allowing the Lord to spread into his soul until all his desires, thoughts, and decisions become one with those of Christ. Finally, at Christ's return, God will fully saturate the believer's body with His life. This is called glorification (Phil. 3:21). Thus, instead of being empty and damaged in each part, this man is filled and saturated with the life of God. This is God's full salvation! Such a man expresses God and fulfills God's plan!



© 1998 Living Stream Ministry

PREPARING TO MEET THE LORD BY GOD'S FULL SALVATION

**How can we allow the
Lord to spread in all our
being?**

