






Thessalonian Eschatological Theme Toward Daily Life

- Every chapter in First Thessalonians ends with a reference to the second coming of Christ. How does your understanding of this doctrine effect your life? If your view of Bible prophecy has no effect on your life, then you might not understand the significance.
- Some have suggested that the disorderly conduct among the Thessalonians was over eschatological material. However, the eschatological teaching has a positive ethical effect. So the disorderly problem was simply a local Thessalonian issue. It appears Paul anticipated many of these matters when he was among them. Also he dealt with them in his epistles in a pragmatic manner.
- The enemies of Paul seemed to turn the Thessalonians hope of Christ's coming into dread (1Th.2:1-3). Paul mentions *parousia* many times to calm their fears, and to motivate them toward Godly living. If we expect to see Christ it will motivate us to holy living.



<p>The “Catching away” (Greek: <i>harpazō</i>) (Latin: <i>rapiemur</i>) (English: <i>snatch</i>)</p>	<p>SALVATION</p>	<p>“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, <i>even</i> Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” (1Th.1:10)</p> <hr/> <p> • Paul related Christ's second coming to their salvation experience. As they trusted Christ for everlasting life, so they looked for His return which will deliver them from the wrath of Daniel's 70th Week, commonly known as the “Tribulation” (Mt.24:21,29; Mk.13:24).</p>
<p>Christ's Second Coming</p>	<p>SERVICE</p>	<p>¹⁹“For what <i>is</i> our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? <i>Are</i> not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? ²⁰For ye are our glory and joy.” (1Th.2:19-20)</p> <hr/> <p> • Paul is glad over Timothy's report on their progress. For the Believer the best is yet to come. Paul encouraged them to look forward by faith to the time when they would be in the presence of Christ. In time of testing and trouble we can rejoice in the future when we will forever be with Christ.</p>
<p>Christ's Second Coming</p>	<p>STABILITY</p>	<p>¹¹“Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. ¹²And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all <i>men</i>, even as we <i>do</i> toward you: ¹³To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.” (1Th.3:11-13)</p> <hr/> <p> • Paul prays that God will guide their steps, and that their love continues to grow among each other and toward all men. Paul uses Christ's second coming to encourage holiness in their lives. In the future sin will not be remembered (Ro.8:1; He.10:14-18) as we will be made like Christ (1Jn.3:2). He is referring to life now on this earth.</p>
<p>The “Catching away” (Greek: <i>harpazō</i>) (Latin: <i>rapiemur</i>) (English: <i>snatch</i>)</p>	<p>COMFORT</p>	<p>¹³“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive <i>and</i> remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive <i>and</i> remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1Th.4:13-18)</p> <hr/> <p> • Christ's resurrection is the Believer's basis for future assurance and comfort. It is backed by the authority of God's Word. Since our Savior conquered death, we do not need to fear death or the future (1Co.15:12ff). The doctrine of Christ's return can comfort the brokenhearted.</p>
<p>Christ's Second Coming</p>	<p>HOLINESS</p>	<p>²³“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and <i>I pray God</i> your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful <i>is</i> he that calleth you, who also will do <i>it</i>.” (1Th.5:23-24)</p> <hr/> <p> • Paul's plea is for God's peace to sanctify our whole being. Sanctify means we have been set apart exclusively for God's use. We have been sanctified positionally (He.10:10) when we believed on Christ. There is a practical sanctification (2Co.7:1) which is our daily dealing with sin and growth. Finally, there will be perfect sanctification (1Jn.3:2) when we see Christ and become like Him.</p>