

Chapt 2: A CAUTION REGARDING THE TIMING OF CHRIST'S RETURN

Chapt 1: THE COMFORT OF CHRIST'S RETURN (*until then, worthy to suffer*) 2 Thess 1:6-10

We saw the reality of suffering as we follow Christ AND God's punishment of those that know not God.

We saw our need live worthy of the calling of God on our lives! 2 Thess 1:5, 11-12

Our lives are to be found worthy of the kingdom of God. Our faithfulness to His Word and each other (vs 3-4) in persecution is proof of it. The proof of it qualifies us to rule in reign with Christ in His kingdom. Vs 5, 11-12

Chapt 2: (*keep your prophecy straight*)

1. All shook up! Fear is the outcome of not _____ and _____ rightly in prophecy. Vs 1-3a

- Jesus is coming! **Acts 1:11**
- **What is** "our gathering together unto him"? This is the _____ of the church! 1 Thess 1:10; 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-57; 2 Cor 5:1-8; Rev 4:1; Gen 5 (Enoch in type) etc.
- Note the deception (vs 2-3) that lead to the church's frustration. Related to the 2nd coming of Christ, know that first comes the rapture of the church. This is comfort and reassurance for Bible believers! Example: 1 Thess 4:13-18 comes before 5:1-11.
- Vs 2: "soon shaken" "troubled" – people _____ when they _____.

Vs 3: let no man deceive you! (like these were in vs 2.) Matt 24:4-6; 1 Cor 6:9; Eph 5:6

Know this! There is always someone _____ to _____ you. Who? **2 John 1:7**

Spirit – try the spirits! **1 John 4:1**

Word – "spiritual" people. Can you trust their words? **2 Peter 2:18-19; Colossians 2:4**

Letter as from us. **2 Corinthians 2:17; 2 Corinthians 11:3**

Solution? Get equipped! Ephesians 4:11-15

- Vs 3: if you're operating under deception, you don't live right. (Gen 3) These false teachers were convincing many that they were going to face the great tribulation. Problem: that changes the focus from serving God and puts it onto serving self!

2. Clued in! The _____ of "that day." Vs 3-5

- What day? "That day" _____ is "the day of Christ" in vs 2. Be careful saying that every reference to "that day" is a direct ref to "The day of the Lord."
- Note: "the day of the Lord" is a phrase in Scripture denoting the _____ of Christ. Sometimes in Scripture, "that day" is referring to the day that it is referring to in the text. Pay attention to the context. **Genesis 30:35; 1 Samuel 18:9; John 11:53**
- What day is "the day of Christ?" In Bible study, _____ determines _____. **1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:6, 9-11; 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 2 Timothy 1:12, 16-18**

"The day of Christ" is what day? _____

KEY: the rapture of the church and the Judgment Seat of Christ are two separate events.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 vs 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Timing of “the day of Christ”

Event	Hindering	Lead up to the Resurrection: 2 Thes 2:1	Rapture: Our gathering together unto Him	Welcome: In the clouds.		JSOC: Day of Christ	Marriage: Supper	Return: To victory and to rule and reign
In heaven		Souls of the dead in Christ return with Him. 1 Thes 4:13-14	The coming / gathering. 2 Thes 2:1	The meeting in the air. 1 Thes 4:17		2Th 2:2-3	Rev19:5-9	Rev 19:11 Heaven opened. Return.
On earth	2Thes 2:7	Those alive are waiting our turn for the resurrection. 1 Thes 4:15	Dead rise first. 1 Thes 4:15-16 We who are alive rise second. 1 Th 4:17; 2 Th 2:7	After the rapture. Shock and deception, because...	Apostasy. 2 Thes 2:3, 9-12 Antichrist revealed. 2 Thes 2:3, 8	Great Tribulation begins on earth.		Victory, 2 Th 2:8; Rev 19:11-21 then a 1000 yr reign. Rev 20:1-4

Note: The post-tribulation rapture crowd equates the “day of Christ” with the day of the Lord in order to tie the _____ of the rapture of the church to the _____ of:
 1. the “falling away” and 2. the revelation of the antichrist. Thus, the doctrine of the imminent return of Christ (overwhelmingly obvious in multiple Bible passages!) is overturned in their mind. ***Don’t fall for it!***

Don’t make the gathering (the rapture) and “the day of Christ” the same thing! Why?
Most do and now they’ve set up preconditions for the rapture!

- The day of Christ is not the rapture. It is the judgment seat of Christ. The prerequisites are for the Judgment Seat of Christ, not the rapture.

The church WILL NOT be here to see the revealing of the Antichrist! Note the pronouns for those related to the revealed antichrist! In vs 9-12 = it’s “them” and they.”

You don’t find “WE” and “YE” until we get to vs 13-17.

Why? Because we’ve been delivered! Remember that 1 Thess 4:13-18 is a rapture that is before the wrath of God which unfolds in 5:1-11. That’s comfort!

KEY: Don’t take one hard passage and throw away all the cross references for the imminent return of Christ for the church! What protects us from strange views is “the whole counsel of God.”

- The great tribulation is “the time of Jacob’s (Israel’s) trouble” NOT the church’s.
Jeremiah 30:4-7