

“Their Present Suffering and the Coming of the Lord”

2 Thess. 2:1-3a

Finding Peace in the Midst of the Storm

There is a larger thought that is expressing itself, which we cannot miss this. There were certain false assumptions that were plaguing the early church.

- **First**, when you get saved all your problems are solved and your life is going to be so much easier.
- **Second**, Christians will not suffer.

Because of these assumptions,

- They felt abandoned by God;
- They believed His promises had failed.

There are two primary thoughts contained in the first two verses.

I. The Lord is coming and will gather us unto Himself (v.1).

The apostle gives us the subject matter of his appeal in this verse.

A. The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

When will this happen, “When He returns?” Paul uses the word, **parousia** to depict the coming of the Lord. It is a simple word meaning, “Advent or Arrival.” Paul uses the same word in 1 Thessalonians 2:19 and it, “Is the first occurrence in Christian literature of this important word.” (Morris, Thessalonians, 96).

B. Our gathering together to Him

The word, “Gathering together” is used only twice as a noun in the New Testament (2 Thess. 2:1, Heb. 10:25).

It is a compound word (**episunagoga**) meaning, “a complete collection.” You have the English word “Synagogue” inside of our word.

Our Lord’s coming signifies the gathering of His people unto Himself. This truth is in John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

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Paul assures them that their present suffering is part of God's overarching purpose and that they have not been left behind.

II. There is no possible way for you as a believer to miss it (vv.2, 3).

Paul is exhorting the church to live in light of your theology not your experience. If we choose to live in light of our experience, then we will be unsettled and greatly disturbed. If we choose to live in light of our theology, then we will find rest in our moments of perceived difficulties.

Paul is writing in order to answer their questions and to calm their spirits. The bottom line is simple, "There is no possible way for you as a believer to miss the coming of the Lord."

III. There are certain events that must precede His coming for His people (vv. 3-12).

APPLICATION: (Making the Transfer)

Paul wrote what he did to encourage the people of God. He encourages the people by reminding them of God's future program in light of their present suffering.