

## 1 Thessalonians: Holiness & Hope in a Hostile World

Lesson Fifteen • 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
**Comfort of Christ's Coming**

### Comfort of Christ's Coming

Jesus is coming; so be COMFORTED not confused by the promise Christ's Coming.

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also." Jesus in John 14:1-3*

### Another Common Question Among Christians

What happens at the coming of Christ?

### Two Insights from Paul Concerning Christ's Coming

#### 1. The PERPLEXITIES of Christ's Coming

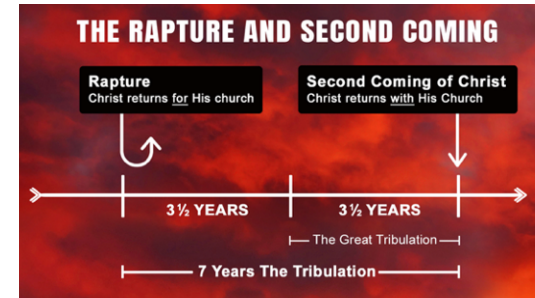
- The comfort of Christ's Coming became an event of CONFUSION for the Thessalonian Church (v. 13; 2 Thess. 2:1-2).

#### Two Extremes to Avoid

- End-times *exuberance*, characterized by an overreaction to the promise of Christ's Coming.
  - End-times *ignorance*, characterized by an unawareness of the comfort of Christ's Coming.
- The confusion of Christ's Coming was over the TIMING of Christ's return for His church not the certainty of His return.

#### Two Phases of Christ's Coming

- Christ returns *for* His Church at the Rapture of Christians from earth.
- Christ returns *with* His Church at the Second Coming of Christ to earth.



### Three Main Views on Time of Rapture

- Pre-tribulation: Rapture occurs *before* the 7-year Tribulation period begins.
- Mid-tribulation: Rapture occurs *during* the 7-year Tribulation period at the half-way point.
- Post-tribulation: Rapture occurs *after* the 7-year Tribulation period, simultaneous with Christ's Second Coming.

## 2. The PARTICULARS of Christ's Coming

- RETURN: The Lord Himself will descend from heaven (v. 16).
- RESURRECTION: The dead in Christ will rise first (v. 16).
- RAPTURE: The alive in Christ will be caught up together (v. 17).
- REUNION: All in Christ will always be with the Lord (v. 17-18).

### Takeaway

Make sure you are READY for Christ's Coming.

Are you heaven-born and heaven-bound?