

Living In Anticipation Of Seeing Our Lord At The Rapture

I Thessalonians 2:10 ff

Walk in a manner worthy of God
who calls you into His own Kingdom
by means of **The Rapture.**

Paul will refer to **The Rapture**, three times in chapter 2.

The first one is in verses 12 as a result of verses 10-11.

Read straight through verses 10-12 noting the purpose clause at beginning of verse 12 **so that**.

I Thessalonians 2:10-12

- | | |
|----|---|
| 10 | You are witnesses, and <i>so is</i> God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; |
| 11 | just as you know how we <i>were</i> exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father <i>would</i> his own children, |
| 12 | <u>so that</u> you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. |

The Church is universally called
at The Rapture

We have noted 8 **PRINCIPLES ON WITNESSING** in this chapter.

- 1 You have to go where there are unbelievers.
- 2 The gospel must be presented in spite of opposition.
- 3 The negative reception of the gospel today should not defeat you from giving the gospel tomorrow.
- 4 The gospel must never be compromised nor distorted.
- 5 God has entrusted you with the gospel to give to others.
- 6 The gospel should never be given out to receive flattery or praise or excessive wealth from others.
- 7 You should care so much for those you are witnessing, realizing that you are presenting them the only way to avoid damnation and to receive Eternal Life with JESUS CHRIST.
- 8 Instead of taking from you should give the gospel to those you are witnessing.

Now we continue our observation on WITNESSING:

9 We should be fully aware of how we conduct ourselves in presenting the Gospel.

10 **You are witnesses,** (we learn by careful observation of others) **and so is God,** (Paul has already noted that God is our witness in verse 5 and in verse 4 God judges our hearts.)

how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; (three characteristics of Paul's bold witnessing.)

How devoutly (This is the only occurrence of this adverb in the New Testament, and it refers to the fact that Paul was **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**)

He is Holy, Set Apart by God the Holy Spirit.

Upright : This adverb describes one Filled with the Holy Spirit. In Titus 2:12 it is translated *righteous*.

Blamelessly : (This is another adverb used only here in the New Testament and it means that he is blameless of any wrong in presenting them the gospel.)

Look at Galatians 5:22-23

22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

23 **gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

So when you are Filled with the Holy Spirit by grace through **faith** you fulfill the Law and you are blameless before God and man.

we behaved toward you (This is an Aorist Passive Indicative and the Passive voice says we receive acting this way from the Holy Spirit. And the Indicative mood means this is a reality of us when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.)

In presenting the gospel or in living the **Christian Way of Life** we are responsible with our lives to others.

In 1 Corinthians 8-9 we studied the
4 LAWS OF CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR
in all circumstances:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Law of Liberty
(directed toward self) |
| 2 | Law of love—Spiritual Love
(directed toward believers) |
| 3 | Law of expediency
(directed toward unbelievers) |
| 4 | Law of supreme sacrifice
(directed toward God) |

Believers should always be mindful as to how we act,
speak and treat others in our lives...
**toward those closest to us—family...
to strangers...**

The 10th Principle

10 The Gospel should be followed up, as much as is possible, with at least telling them how to be filled with the Holy Spirit as they received JESUS CHRIST...by grace through Faith in THE HOLY SPIRIT.

11 **just as you know** (experientially)

Now Paul list three fold follow up procedure:

11 **how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,**

Exhorting: (present participle which means they kept on exhorting...)

This is a Greek word which means to call someone to your side in order to help them; comfort them; encourage them. Be sure you never forget that living the life that is pleasing to God is difficult and often filled with turmoil from the world, the flesh and the devil.

Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:14

14 **we urge you, we exhort you...**

Another good example is Hebrews 3:13

13 **But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**

Encouraging: to speak encouraging words; to orient them to what is going on; telling them about the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** ... about how Satan would love to get them out of growing in the Word of God; telling them about the **Inherited Sin Nature**, that they have (in case they have sinned)... or that others have (in case where someone has wrong or hurt them)... and all they have to do is walk in THE HOLY SPIRIT and Love (Spiritual Love) one another. This is what our Lord did in reference to Peter.

The first person JESUS CHRIST sought after His resurrection was to seek out Peter to encourage Peter, after Peter had denied Him three times.

His is the spirit of Galatians 6:1

1 **Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, (Filled with the Holy Spirit, which means you have to know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit by grace through Faith); restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.**

Bear one another's burdens,

(specifically that come about from sin)

and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

WHAT IS THE LAW OF CHRIST ?

He (Christ) bore our sins on the cross,
so we are to help another believer even with problems from sin.

Imploring: If you look in the margin of the NASV ***testifying*** and if you will look at 1 Thessalonians 4:6...

Solemnly warned you: (so this word is a beautiful word of the way a parent will sit their son or daughter down and *warn them* alert them as to where their current conduct will probably end up taking them.)

Now, please know that often your good and truthful warnings will be rejected, but at least before God you have—out of Spiritual Love—given a warning. It is a demonstration of arrogance to fail to listen to sound warnings in life.

As a father would his own children we saw in verses 7-8 how we are to love those we witness to and now this should be our attitude towards One Another.

***We now come to the first reference to
The Rapture
in chapter 2***

Paul referred to The Rapture twice in chapter 1:3 and 9-10.

12 **so that:** This answers question, why, why does he exhort, encourage, and implore.

so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God

We have to ask, what walk is this?

The verb '***to walk***' is used in reference to the daily life of the believer.

You know, things you do day in and day out:
work,
watch TV,
spend time on **FACEBOOK**,
instead of in **THE FAITH BOOK!**

But what is important here is what is meant by
Walking In A Manner Worthy Of God?

1. We start off with

Hebrew 11:6

6 **and without faith it is impossible to please Him,**
for he who comes to God must believe that He is
and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

2. Then Galatians 5:16

16 **But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

3. So we walk by **faith** in THE HOLY SPIRIT who qualifies us as walking worthy of the Lord. Walking worthy of the Lord is not what we do, but in who's power we walk.

4. This has always been the walk that is worthy of the Lord. As we look at a passage in Ezekiel remember, he wrote during the Babylonian Captivity.

Ezekiel 36:27

27 **"I (God) will put My Spirit (the Holy Spirit) within you and (by Him, you will be) cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

People, it is not what WE DO;
What God is looking for is the WORK OF HIS SPIRIT.

Two Christians can (•)give money, (•)sing, (•)witness, even (•)come to Bible study... one is worthy of God and the other is not.

What makes the difference?

One is Filled with the Holy Spirit by grace through **faith**, while the other does these things in the energy of the flesh.

5. Remember the Obedience that God is looking for is

**to bring about the Obedience that is faith
Romans 1:5 and Romans 16:26... the Scriptures
...has been made known to all the Nations
leading to the obedience of Faith.**

If you want to know ‘what does it mean to obey God’, look at the first and last sentences of Romans.

6. To walk worthy of God is to walk in a manner of perfect righteousness and the only way you can do this is by walking in His Spirit.

Romans 8:4

- 4 **so that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

7. Point 7 we will spend in Galatians 5
Galatians 5:5

- 5 **For we** (believers in JESUS CHRIST) **through** (or by means of) **the Spirit**, (Holy Spirit) **by Faith**, (the Greek construction here has this prepositional phrase corresponds with what preceded and what follows.)

What preceded ?

How do we receive the power of the Holy Spirit?

by Faith in THE HOLY SPIRIT (and now we learn how we wait for a righteous life) **by Faith are waiting for the hope of righteousness.**

Now if you will look down a few verses to verse 16...

16 **But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

But Again the Question

How do we walk by The HOLY SPIRIT?

He just told us how in Galatians 5:5—**by Faith**

But **Faith** must have an object.

So what is the object of our **Faith**?

Again, verse 5... Filled in the HOLY SPIRIT.

Remember John 6:29.

29 **Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”**

And God has sent His Son for our Eternal Life Salvation and God has sent His Spirit for our Spirituality.

We moved from Galatians 5:5 to 5:16—where we are to **walk by the Spirit by Faith.**

Now look at verse 18

18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

In verse 16 **walk by the Spirit** is a Present Active Imperative. *keep on walking by the Holy Spirit* but here in verse 18 **if you are led by the Spirit** (is a Present Passive—which means we receiving being led by the Holy Spirit.)

Question:

How do we receive the leading of the Holy Spirit?

Many preachers preach on this verse but they never tell you “**how**”?

They don't tell you
“**how**” you walk in the Holy Spirit nor
“**how**” you receive being led by the Holy Spirit.

So, our question is “**how**”?

Oh, some of you are already ahead of me!!

Of course by **Faith** in the Holy Spirit... you walk in Him by **Faith** and you receive being lead by Him, by **Faith**.

2 Corinthians 5:7

7 **For we walk by Faith not by sight.**

Combine this with our passage in 1 Thessalonians 2:12

12 **walk in a manner worthy of the God.**

Where does God want me? Where His Spirit leads you!
This is why it is so important to know how to walk in the HOLY SPIRIT and how to be led by the Holy Spirit.

We are not through with Galatians 5.

Look at verse 25

25 **If we live by the Spirit,** (the Holy Spirit.)

Maybe you will be led by the HOLY SPIRIT, and maybe not;
Maybe you will live by the Holy Spirit; maybe not.
It is all up to your walking by Faith.

If we live by (the “Spirit Walk” and “Live” have the same concept in our study.)

“Live” here refers to how you spend your life.

What would you want in a biography of your life?

Will you be completely satisfied if all that is said is:

You lived by the HOLY SPIRIT?

Which such living would mean you lived a life that pleased God.

You lived a life that was worthy of God.

Continuing in verse 25...

25 **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

The problem is that this is not the same word for ‘to walk’ as we had in verse 16, where it was **PERIPATEO** to walk, but now it is **STOICHEO** you do not have to know Greek to see that these are two entirely different words.

The word used here is a borrowed military term, to remind us we are in a Spiritual Warfare.

This word means to stand in line... to stand or go in proper order;

Here it means **to keep in step with** the Holy Spirit.

So again,

“how” in the world are we to keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

You got it... by **Faith**.

This verb is a subjunctive mood, which means maybe you will keep in step and maybe you will not keep in step. It all depends on whether or not you are walking in THE HOLY SPIRIT by **Faith**.

But look at Ephesians 4: 32

32 **Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**

Ephesians 5:1

1 **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;**

This means to imitate God in forgiving One Another just as God has forgiven you in Christ.

So we are to be like God in our forgiveness.

“But they do not deserve forgiveness...” do you?

Do you deserve to be forgiven by God?

We are to forgive One Another not because they deserve to be forgiven, but because Christ died bearing the judgment for all sins. It is amazing how unbelievers are so ready to forgive, with no foundation for that forgiveness, while many Christians are so resentful in forgiving.

And we have a reason... a foundation for our forgiveness—the cross.

Ephesians 5:2

2 **and walk** (keep on walking) **in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.**

This is the New Commandment given by JESUS CHRIST in the upper room.

John 13:34-35

34 **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

35 **“By this all** (not men, but simply all—human and angelic) **will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

Question:

How are we to Walk in Spiritual Love?

Not human love... but Spiritual love?

That is love from THE HOLY SPIRIT as fruit of THE HOLY SPIRIT to a Spiritual Being; that is every born again believer, therefore, Spiritual Love.

So we are to walk worthy of God,
We are to walk by **Faith**,
We are to love as JESUS CHRIST loved.

Now here is the kicker:

GOD PROVIDES everything necessary to carry out His desire for us. God is the one who **gives the commands** and He is the **enabler to fulfill those commands**.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

24 **Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.**

I like the King James here: **Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it!** (He does it all, all we add is Faith of a mustard seed.)

Colossians 1:12-13

12 **giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.**

13 **For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**

Here again, we see that it is God who qualifies us, not we ourselves. This is what kind of God we worship.

So this all goes back to 1 Thessalonians 2:12

12 **so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you**

We have already noted in 1 Thessalonians 1:4 that God calls or elects everyone who believes in His Son, Jesus the Christ.

Now we come to the phrase of why we are in

(1 Thessalonians)

... The Rapture.

12 **So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own Kingdom and Glory.**

(This will occur at The Rapture of the Church.)

So, let us note the flow here:

Paul was **exhorting, and encouraging and imploring for the purpose** that they (you and I) would walk (live) in a manner worthy of God and who calls us **INTO HIS OWN KINGDOM AND GLORY.**

This makes it clear that “we the Church”, is not the Kingdom. We are in the Church. We are in the Body of Christ. And every one of us can and should... everyday... look forward to our being called into His kingdom.

So, we have already seen in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 that the word ‘rescues’ us to Himself out of the wrath to come, and now we see another word for Rapture—**being called into His kingdom.**

And so again, as we saw through chapter 1 so now in chapter 2 we should live every day, anticipating being rescued into His arms out from the wrath to come, or to being Raptured out of this world.

Do not live to die, which most Christians think about, esp. as they get older, don’t think about dying, but live to be Raptured home.

13 **For this reason** (the imminence of The Rapture, People we should live each day as if today we would Meet the Lord in the Air...not that we might die, but that we might be face to face with our Savior) **we also constantly thank God** (once again (1:2) we should be in constant prayer with our heavenly Father, remembering that He could call us all home today) **that** (lets note what Paul is thankful for:) **when you received the word of God** (starting with the Gospel) **which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is,** (I prefer the King James here: the Greek word is) **truth** (and being an adverb) ---**but as it is truly the word of God,**

Please be ever so careful as to whom you listen to in teaching the Word of God. Does he believe this is the Divinely inspired, inerrant, infallible WORD OF GOD, and is the final authority on everything?

which also performs its work in you who believe.

Romans 1:16

16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

But as believers the Word of God is still actively powerful in them as they grow in Knowledge of all Scripture.

Hebrews 4:12

12 **For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

1 Thessalonians 2:14-18 Opposition to the Gospel

14 **For you, brethren, (believers) became (by THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and listening to the teaching of the Word of God) imitators (followers) of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also **endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,** (the Believers in Judea had been severely persecuted by the religious Jews.)**

So now these believers in Thessalonica are being severely persecuted by Gentiles as well as by Jews; Persecuted because they listened to and believed the Word of God.

15 **who** (religious Jews) **both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God,** (while they think they are serving God, they are not of faith in His Word) . **but hostile to all men,** (Hostile to any proclamation of the gospel or the truth of the WORD OF GOD)

John 16:1

1 **“These things I have spoken to you** (for your advantage) **so that you may be kept from stumbling.** (Due to hostility, even to the point of death)

2 **“They** (religious, legalistic, primarily Jewish opposition) **will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.**

3 **“These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.**

4 **“But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.**

Back to 1 Thessalonians 2:

16 **hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles** (in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** Satan does all he can to hinder or stop the spreading of the gospel)----**so that they may be saved;** (Satan does not want to lose any unbeliever from his kingdom of Darkness)--**with the result that they** (the servants of Satan) **always fill up the measure of their sins.** (Opposition to the gospel is a sin)-----**But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.**

Oh, People, please do not let anyone deceive you into thinking that there is no wrath from God in time, or especially, for all eternity. The Wrath of God is real for everyone who refuses to believe in His Son as Savior. And there is wrath for everyone who tries to prevent the spreading of the Gospel.

When Muslims decapitate Christians, two things happen;

1. The Christian immediately goes home to the Lord, face to face with Jesus. and
2. The Muslim builds up wrath from God to the utmost.

17 **But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while in person, not in spirit** —(God allowed the Jews to keep Paul from returning to Thessalonica. He was with them a very short while and look at how much he was able to teach them)—**were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.** (the one thing that excites any teacher of the Word of God is to be with those eager to hear the Word of God, which is why I constantly give thanks for every one of you here in SVBC.)

18 **For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.**

Ok, here he identifies the head of the enemy to the gospel, Satan. By Satan we know him as the one in opposition to God, to JESUS CHRIST, to the Gospel and to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST. Satan is your enemy!

This means he is in opposition to you, to your marriage, to your single life, to your making it to the study of the WORD OF GOD.

He is also known as the Devil. By that name is *the accuser* so remember every time you attack another believer; accuse another believer; slander another believer, you are doing Satan's work.

The grand central station of this supernatural being is Revelation 12:9

9 **And the (1) great dragon was thrown down, (2) the serpent of old who is called (3) the devil and (4) Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**

He will be referred to again in our study of 1 Thessalonians 3:5

5 **For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.**

It is amazing how many Christians are tempted by Satan away from Bible study, away from standing firm in the Word of God, and then think they are getting away with something that is sinful even abominable to God. He deceives and he tempts believers. You have to be on guard, you have to remain in the Filling of the Holy Spirit. Now in verses 19-20 for the fourth time in just two chapters Paul speaks of The Rapture of the Church.

19 **For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?**

20 **For you are our glory and joy.**

In the midst of hostile tribulation, and suffering Paul did not think of dying but of Meeting the Lord in the Air.

It is my prayer that as we go through these studies...Daniel; 2 Samuel 7; Matthew 24-25 and now 1 and 2 Thessalonians that you will find yourself not thinking of dying but of Meeting the Lord in the Air...at The Rapture. Verses 19-20 deal with rewards in Time and Eternity.

Do not minimize the importance of rewards from God. They are all through Scripture to encourage us to live Spirit Filled Life...daily.

Hope:

Remember that **Faith is the assurance of things hoped for**
Hebrews 11:1

Hope, in this context refers to eternity future, of meeting those we led to the Lord. I wait with eager anticipation and hope of seeing my mother who led me to Christ as my Savior.

Joy: This is his inner happiness in time, right now.

WHAT BRINGS INNER HAPPINESS TO YOU?

I hope that your happiness is seeing someone believe in JESUS CHRIST whom you have witnessed to. And it will be if you are walking in the Holy Spirit by **faith**.

crown of exultation or crown of rejoicing: (just imagine the rejoicing in Eternity when you see those you have led to the Lord. Not the amount of money you have given, not the amount of doctrine you know, but the joy of seeing someone at The Rapture, you led to the Lord.)

20 **For you are our glory** (in eternity) **and joy.** (In time.)

**YOU DESIRE SOME REAL HAPPINESS?
SOME REAL JOY?**

Don't go out and buy something you have wanted or go someplace, go out and find some lost soul, and lead them to Christ!

NOW THAT IS JOY!

in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

I don't know what you think about when you think of The Rapture. Some are eagerly waiting for The Rapture —as a way out of their troubled life.

People, **The Rapture** is not a Problem-solving device for your life...God has graciously provide other wonderful assets for that:

He has provided the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit leading to the Filling of the Holy Spirit by grace through **faith** and the powerful **WORD OF GOD**. We are going to see a wonderful verse that will do us all well to pay attention:

1 Thessalonians 4:11

11 **and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life.**

Much of the **SAD** (Stress, Anxiety, Depression) most Christians suffer is from wanting to be 'in the action' 'live on the cutting edge' 'being busy' 'going and coming', etc.

And you wonder why your life is full of **SAD**? People like to boast, 'oh, I am so busy'; 'my family'; 'my work';, etc.

I am so busy!!

Ask yourself is this of the leading of the Holy Spirit or is this you, taking control of your own life?

Wanting to make the most of every minute of the day?

Do you have time to go to the assembly and
study the **WORD OF GOD**?

Do you have time to Pray?

Do you have time to encourage another believer?

Try it God's way, live a quiet life, growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, witnessing for JESUS CHRIST, this will bring you all the attention you will want in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**.

No, The Rapture is not a problem-solving device.

The Rapture is a glorious occurrence, when we, every believer on earth will be rescued **into** the arms of our Lord, **out from** the wrath that is to come to this earth.

Many people, think that we should not teach that much on The Rapture or that The Rapture could occur today. Well, Paul in the book of 1 Thessalonians refers to The Rapture in every chapter. We have already noted four references to The Rapture and we are just finished with chapter 2.

No, people, imminence of The Rapture should be on our minds all the time, it should guide us in growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST whom we will Meet Face to Face. It should encourage us to witness to others of the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST and of the coming of The Rapture, in that we will meet that person in coming of the Lord.

in the presence of our Lord Jesus

So what is The Rapture?

Why should we live in anticipation of The Rapture?

Because we will be physically face to face with our Lord and Savior

at His coming?

PAROUSIA This word is used all through the New Testament and refers to several different comings of our Lord. And context has to be carefully studied to know exactly which coming this refers.

In this context, this refers to meeting the Lord at The Rapture of the church, which we noted in 1 Thessalonians 1:10

10 **that is Jesus who delivers or rescues us or draws us to Himself out from the wrath to come.**

Paul was looking for the ***PAROUSIA*** of the Lord in his life time. There are no prophecies to be fulfilled before The Rapture can occur.

So in closing, I hope that every one of us lives each day anxiously anticipating Meeting the Lord in the Air

Living a quiet life,
Walking Worthy of the Lord in the Spirit Filled Life by **faith**,
Growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST from the Word
of God and Witnessing to others –
Anticipating the Joy of Seeing Them
at The Rapture.