

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

What stands out most about these 2 books is that it deals with bible prophecy, and just about every chapter deals with this fact.

The 2 books of Thessalonians are both very short passages of scripture that are both packed with insights into the future return of Jesus Christ our Lord, and contain many scriptures concerning his return.

The Book of 1 and 2 Thessalonians is going to challenge what you have been told before, but now you are going to see the truth for yourself, and you will have to either accept it or reject it.

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us? – it teaches on

1. Jesus return, and his timing for his return?
2. How Jesus will return, and in what way or manner?
3. Who are the elect, and how can we know who the elect are?
4. To whom is this book written, and for what purpose?
5. How Thessalonians fit in with other scriptures on the return of Christ?

So these are just some of the questions and answers that these books will give us.

Now both these books deal with aspects of the return of Christ, for example it deals with the wrath of God being poured out on the unsaved, the tribulation, Jesus coming in the clouds, and the saved being with Christ.

- Over and over again these sayings keep coming up, and even in the most famous passages of which is dealing with the rapture as in the case of 1 Thessalonians Chapter four. This is when the trumpet sounds and Christ comes in the clouds, and then those that are alive and remain are caught up together with him, to be with him, to meet the Lord in the air, and so ever be with the Lord.
- Unfortunately that seems to be the only passage that ever gets quoted with regards to bible prophecy in Thessalonians, and the other scriptures tend to be ignored.
- When there is so much more in these books that explains and reveals the events of the end times and the coming of our Lord.
- ❖ In fact if you study 1 and 2 Thessalonians you will find out that it matches up exactly with what Jesus taught in Mathew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

But unfortunately many people take Mathew chapter 24, out of context and twist it and give it a new interpretation which is outside of what the bible is teaching, to change the timing of the rapture.

1. Now as we go through 1 and 2 Thessalonians we will be able to get the context of what is happening in relation to bible prophecy instead of a superficial understanding where verses have been taken out of context in the past to express what people wanted it to say.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ¹⁰ And to **wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, even **Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come**.

- ✚ This is one of the keys that you need to understand, and that the word affliction and tribulation are the same interchangeable words used. Like when Jesus taught in **Mark 13 in verses 19-23** he said the following.

¹⁹ **For in those days shall be affliction**, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

²⁰ And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: **but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen**, he hath shortened the days.

²¹ And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

²² For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

²³ But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

²⁴ **But in those days, after that tribulation**, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, ²⁵ And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. ²⁶ And **then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds** with great power and glory.

- ✓ **And if you look at Matthew 24:21**, concerning that same verse as that of verse 19 of Mark 13, instead of it saying **affliction** it says.....**tribulation**.

Matthew 24: ²¹ **For then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

- ✓ So it's easy to see that from the words of Jesus in Mark 13:19 and Matthew 24:21 that when Jesus himself described this situation he used the words Tribulation and affliction interchangeably.
- ✓ That's why when we look back to 1 Thessalonians 3: in verses 3-4 we saw the words being used interchangeably. Look again.

1 Thessalonians 3:3-4: ³ That **no man should be moved by these afflictions**: for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto**. ⁴ **For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

- ✓ **Even in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1 in verse 6** this same word is brought up to describe the situation of those following Jesus.

⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, **having received the word in much affliction**, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

- ✚ **Now lets go to 2 Thessalonians:** And let's continue with the same theme as regards to bible prophecy.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-9 ⁴ So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:**

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,**

⁸ **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

⁹ **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**

- ✚ **We are not appointed to wrath, but we have this theme that we are appointed unto tribulation and affliction as we saw in 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4.**

The bible says, **2 Timothy 3:12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.**

- ✚ So he says, you going to go through tribulation, but you going to be spared the vengeance of God.
- ❖ This theme is spelled out over and over in both books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, and yet people still don't get it.
- ❖ People just want to go to the passage of 1 Thessalonians 4 which teaches on the rapture, and they just want to change the timing of the rapture to fall before the tribulation.

Question: But the question is where does it say that in the scripture? That the rapture is going to be before the tribulation? Huh.? In fact it says the opposite.

Answer: But instead in Matthew 24:29-31 it says that the rapture is after the tribulation.

Matthew 24:28-29 ²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. *(this is exactly what Rev 6/7/14 tells us).*

1. People will try and say that this is speaking about the elect being the Jews? But even if it was speaking to the Jews it still would not change the timing of the rapture or the coming of the Lord. That great day of the Lord.
2. But how is it possible that it could be the Jews when the 1 Thessalonians 4 is speaking about the gentile rapture?
3. So how can Matthew 24 be the rapture of the Jews when 1 Thessalonians 4 is speaking about the rapture of the Gentiles? – it's the same scripture.
4. The books of Thessalonians is written to the gentiles in Greece. The Greeks.

Now another section of scripture that supports this is also found in 2 Thessalonians 1.

- ✓ 2 Thessalonians 2:1 also supports this coming in the clouds of Jesus in Matthew 24:28.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-8 ¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

1. So what he was saying is that don't let any man deceive you as if the day of Christ is at hand.

2. That you are not deceived by any man, who will say that Christ can come at any moment?

No.....that is not what the scriptures teach here in Thessalonians. It says that first there needs to come a falling away, and then that man of sin must be revealed.....who will set himself up in the temple of God.....and declaring himself to be God. Only then is the stage set for Jesus to return.

3. Only when that happens the scriptures say.....that Jesus will return.
4. So to say that Jesus can return at any minute or any second is not found in the scriptures, and it is not taught anywhere in the word of God.

✚ **So let me ask you a question:** Has that happened yet? Has the man of sin been revealed? Is he sitting in the temple here and now declaring himself to be God? Because if he was then Jesus would return swiftly as he said he would.

✚ **We don't see that antichrist sitting in the temple of God now.** We don't see that abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet now as Jesus referred to. Jesus said when you see these things then know that it is nigh even at the door. But that has not happened yet.

- ✓ So why is it that so many people are deceived, as to think that the day of Christ can happen in a moment?

✚ That Christ is going to come before the antichrist and the abomination?

- ❖ It makes no sense, and does not line up with scriptures. It's simply because they don't know the books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians that's why. And also they take Matthew 24:44 out of context to support their theory of the rapture timing.

Matthew 24:⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

If Matthew 24:44 is about the rapture then the preceding verse should also be about the rapture not so? – But yet they will say it is not.

- ✓ God did not want us to be ignorant of his return and that's why he told us through the Apostle Paul that we should not sorrow but be ready.

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For 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:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and 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.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- ✓ Isn't it a comfort to know what the Lord said. That how we are to know when he is coming? And how that we are to be ready?
- ✓ Jesus gave us the sequence of events leading up to his return?

Revelation 1:7 **Behold, he cometh with clouds**; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

- Therefore now that we know these things about what is being taught in the book of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, we can now go into the book of 1st Thessalonians, and know what it is all about, and why it was written.

Therefore with the introduction that is fresh in our minds again about Jesus returning and the rapture, let us begin to examine and see what the book of 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20 holds for us.

Second Message.....continued....

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INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

¹ For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

1. Here is a reminder to the congregation that Paul, Silvanus and Timothy had ministered unto the brethren all that they had known of Jesus Christ.
2. It is here that the people are reminded of that hope in Jesus that what they had received was worthy of eternal salvation, as Paul had told them it was not in vain.

To have given them a promise which would not materialize at the end of days culminating in their eternal salvation would have surely been in vain, but this was not the case because Paul reminds them that it is Jesus who has saved them, and it is Jesus who will raise them up in the end of their days when he comes again, and that's what the book of 1 and 2 Thessalonians is all about. It's about the hope that all believers should have in Jesus Christ as he will come again.

3. Paul was reminding them that they knew it to be true and that he wanted them to hold onto that truth no matter what comes their way. And that's why he said in 1 Thessalonians 4: ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

✚ And that is the same for us today. If we know Jesus Christ as our saviour then we can claim the same truth that Paul told that congregation at Thessalonica.

4. Many people can come to you and promise you many things, but when Jesus comes in unto you, you can know that His promises will stand for an eternity which is unlike what man can promise and give unto you.

✚ Trust in Jesus and you can never go wrong!

² But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

1. These people in the Thessalonians' church had been through a lot because of their faith.
2. But Paul reminds them that they are not alone in suffering for their faith.
3. They had suffered for their faith in Jesus, and that's why they had suffered.
4. But Paul told them that even whilst he was in Philippi and most probably ministering to the Philippians' church there, he had also come under the same attacks and had suffered much persecution there as well.

5. He said even whilst we were at Philippi, we were shamefully entreated, but it never hindered us to preach the gospel of God. Nothing stopped Paul from preaching.
6. Paul was far more interested in pleasing God in his calling than to please men for a season.

✚ Friends may come and go – But Jesus will always be there for you?

7. Like in so many other Muslim nations in the world Christians are persecuted just because they believe in the true God of the Bible.
8. But in Paul's day this was even more severe, because they were surrounded by pagan gods, and idols and even the rulers would not allow the worshiping of Jesus to go unpunished.

✚ As Paul addresses the congregation he uses the illustration that just as he and Silvanus and Timothy had been persecuted for their faith in Philippi as they boldly spoke the word of God there, they in the same way spoke boldly the word of God to the Thessalonians, holding nothing back.

- ✓ When a preacher refuses to preach the whole council of God, and hold out on the word of God, he is not fit to preach.
- ✓ Paul held nothing back. He said we were bold in speaking the word of God.
- ✓ He said we preached Gods word even with much contention.

✚ Even though the people did not like what he had to say, and treated him shamefully, he said I kept back nothing.

✚ Which can't be said for many preachers today who only want to tickle your ears for money.

✚ "The more they impress you" the more they hope you will give at offering time".

✚ This was not Paul's mandate. He was only to please God. He said this himself.

Acts 20:19-21 ¹⁹ Serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

²⁰ And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

²¹ Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

✚ Paul preached the word of God and let the chips fall where they may.

✚ Pauls aim was to please God, not the people. He was not a people pleaser like Joel Olsten or Benny Hinn or Kenneth Copeland or John Hagee.

✚ Paul was not in it for the money he was in it for the souls to be won to the Lord.

³ **For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:**

1. Pauls preaching was not to try and deceive the people or to be clever. (deceit.)

2. Paul did not try and be a witty or devious preacher.
3. Paul was not preaching a message of ritual washing of uncleanness as the Jews would preach to their converts.

✚ “like you need to do this or that to be saved”. As if by some fancy folding of hands and washing in a particular way, would rid you of your sin and give you a passage to the kingdom of God.

4. No, Pauls preaching was to preach Christ crucified, and the promises Jesus had made to all believers who believe in him and call upon his name.

1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; ⁴ **But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.**

1. Paul’s mission was given to him by Christ. It was a commission to preach the word to the Gentiles.
2. Paul even said here in verse 4 that they **“we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel.”**

✚ Paul never once abused the power of the gospel that Jesus had given to him to preach.

3. Unlike so many money preachers who will tell you things that are not even true just to get you to part with your cash to support them and their ministry.

1 Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

4. Pauls was given the gospel to preach, not as to please men, but to please God.
5. As Paul said it should be God who tries our hearts and not men.... **but God, which trieth our hearts.**

✚ Feeling guilty before man is one thing....but feeling guilty before God is another.

✚ You see if you know that your hope is in God, as Paul, Silvanus and Timothy did, then you need not worry what the future may hold, because which ever way it goes, God will still be in control and you will still be safe in Jesus.

- ✓ And this is the testimony that Paul is conveying to the Thessalonians’ church.
- ✓ In 1 Corinthians 9:18 Paul said that his reward was preaching the gospel.

⁵ For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

1. There is no reason whatsoever to try and preach in a different way to make people believe.

2. Paul said to the Thessalonians' Church **For neither at any time used we flattering words**,why because the gospel itself has the power.
 3. Paul also did not use a method to try and hide the truth from them as trying to cover the truth as if to put on a garment to conceal it. No Paul only preached the truth.
- ✓ People like to hear “flattering words” words that make them feel good.
 - ✓ But Paul used the opposite. He told them what they needed to hear and that was truth,
 - ✓ Instead of Paul feeding them with honey to make them “feel good”, he “stung them as a honey bee” that makes the honey. He stung them with the truth.

✚ Before you eat the “honey” you had better make sure where it comes from in future?

Isaiah 30:9-11 ⁹ That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: ¹⁰ Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: ¹¹ Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

✚ Paul and Silvanus and timothy were certainly not men pleasers. Neither did they Lord over the flock of God.

⁶ Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

1. Pauls saying you know what? We could have Lorded over you, and made you do things for our own benefit.
2. The tendency of men when they get into positions of great power is to abuse it. Whether it be in the physical or spiritual realm.
3. Paul said “We could have sought our own glory”?
4. We could have used you to benefit and elevate our own positions so that we would stand out and rule over you?
5. We could have burdened you with all kinds of doctrines and teachings if we wanted to, but you know what? We never did that? Why because Christ our Lord is the one who was important to us and it was he whose name we are lifting up.

✚ Neither did Paul look to others outside of the church to place burdens upon them.

⁷ But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

1. But Pauls said, he was gentle among the people of God.
2. So gentle, that he cherished the Thessalonians church as his own children.
3. A nurse is one who will do everything for the purpose of uplifting the child, and that's the way Paul was to the church of God.

⁸ So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

1. The word affectionately desirous is the same word as Paul used earlier which was to “nurture and cherish”.
2. These are the words a parent uses when he is caring for his children.
3. It’s the same as when Paul said “we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls,” – This is the same expression you hear a parent say about their children. – that they would take a bullet for their children, or rather take me than my child.
4. This goes to show the true love and desire that Paul had for these people of God.
5. He would risk his life to save them.

⁹ For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

1. Paul continues to use the terminology wording of a woman giving birth to a child.
2. It is this bond that Paul is conveying to the church of how precious they were to him.
3. If you notice the words that he uses to describe their salvation in God. It is words that relate to child birth. **“our labour and travail: for labouring night and day,**
4. Child birth is a labour and a travail (pain), and that’s how Paul viewed the work of the Lord in spreading and teaching the gospel to them.
5. Paul said he would not be “chargeable” (liable) unto any of them, and that why **we preached unto you the gospel of God.**
6. Nobody could say that Paul did not preach the very word of God.

¹⁰ Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

7. That’s why Paul used verse 10 to explain himself. Paul wanted to be blameless not only to God, but also before the people.

¹¹ As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

8. Again the words of a caring parent are seen in verse 11. He told them, how he encouraged them, and comforted them, and charged everyone of them as a father does his children.
- ✚ So tell me? – Did Paul care for the souls of the people?
 - ✚ Did Paul teach anything but the gospel? – No.
 - ✚ But in this day and age of the church – lies and hypocrisy is taught every Sunday in many churches naming the name of Jesus.

¹² That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1. How do you suppose it is to walk worthy of God?
2. Is it not doing the very things that God asks us to do? Like keeping his commandments
3. And to love the Lord they God, and only him?

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1. See there are many types of people.
2. Those who hear the word of God, and it means nothing to them?
3. Then there are those who receive it but don't do anything with it. They kind of want to believe it to be truth, but have no faith to accept it as truth. Because they have received it as the words of men?
4. Then there are those kind of peoples, who receive it differently.they receive it in the following way. **as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

✚ You see the word of God will only work in you if you "believe"

14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

1. They suffered in the same way as Paul suffered.
2. And they the church at Thessalonica suffered in the same way that their country man in "Philip also suffered, and that was because of their faith.
3. Paul told them that they had become followers of the "churches" of God as a result of their persecution and suffering and testimony.
4. In Judea it was the Jews which had caused their countrymen to suffer.

15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

5. Who again Paul reminds them that it was the Jews in verse 15 above.
6. Who killed the Lord Jesus.
7. Who killed their own prophets
8. And now persecute us.
9. The Jews please not God.
10. The Jews are contrary to "all" men.

✚ **So again, how can the Jews be Gods people?**

✚ **They not!**

✚ **Look again at verse 16.**

16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

1. **Forbidding** us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved.

2. To fill up their sin always.
3. **for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.**
4. So who has the wrath of God come upon to the uttermost? – It is the Jews.
5. The wrath of God, has not just come upon the Jews, oh no.....it has come upon them to the **“uttermost”!**
6. So how is it that people can say that the “Jews” are Gods people?

17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

7. But in contrast to the Jews look what Paul says in verse 17.
8. But we brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see you face to face with great desire.
9. Paul was greatly to back at the church of Thessalonica, because for some time the Jews had prevented them from returning to them.
10. But Pauls heart was always to return with great desire. Which could not be said for the Jews.

18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

1. Paul said that timothy, Silvanus and himself could not have returned earlier because they were hindered by Satan.
2. Time and time Paul said that they would have returned but they could not because of Satan.
3. Did – Jesus not call the Jews the synagogue of Satan, and did not Satan hinder the work of God through Paul and his colleagues?
4. Was it not the Jews who hindered Paul? And was it not the Jews who killed the prophets was it not the Jews who crucified Jesus?\
5. So you figure it out if it was not the Jews?

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

1. Every Christian who works for the Lord will receive the crown of glory as Paul says here.
2. Did Jesus not say – behold I come quickly and my reward is with me?

Revelation 22:12

And, **behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me**, to give every man according as his work shall be.

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, **ye shall receive a crown of glory** that fadeth not away.

²⁰ **For ye are our glory and joy.**

1. Paul said, yes you are our glory, and our joy.
2. Because they would receive the gift of eternal life at Jesus second coming.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....