

Hello! This is Dorothy —

In the Apostle Paul's **1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Thessalonians**, He taught them that . . . **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (5:2.)** The Christians had been taught to expect deliverance.

. . . **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together with Him. ( 2 Thessalonians 2:1.)**

However, the new converts had gained wrong instruction from other teachers to the effect that the persecution which they were actually experiencing was the judgment of the Day of the Lord, which is another name in which the Great Tribulation is included. How then could Paul's previous preaching be true and how could they believe it, be caught up, and how could they escape the wrath of God coming on the earth?

Therefore, Paul quickly wrote his **2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonians** to correct this doctrinal error. Once again, the enemy had tried to disrupt them by using false teachers, and by false letters, when all the time God was caring for these converts. Previously, Paul had explained the day of the Lord as a period of history mentioned in various places in the Old Testament, such as in **Zephaniah 1** where we read —

**3 . . . I will cut off man from off the land, saith the Lord.**

**6 . . . and them that are turned back from the Lord; and those who have not sought the Lord, nor inquired of him.**

**7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand . . .**

**14 The great day of the Lord is near. . .**

**15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,**

**16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against fenced cities, and against the high towers.**

Also in the New Testament, it speaks of the Day of the Lord as being after the Rapture of the true Church, and it will include the Tribulation period. This is the Day the Lord: when God pours out His wrath upon man.

The Apostle Paul had taught the Thessalonians in his first letter, his first epistle, that they were not appointed — not to be caught up — in this wrath. As God's children, they were going up to be with the Lord in the Rapture. Therefore, Paul sought to quiet the hearts of these young Christians in this terrible time of persecution they were experiencing. He did it by saying the Lord would appear before that day.

Unfortunately, in the rendering of the authorized version, there is a

confusion here. It says, ***the day of Christ is at hand.*** This is a mis-translation. It should say: ***the day of the Lord is now present. The day of the Lord is now present,*** whereas ***the day of Christ*** is connected with the coming of Christ for the Church and it is only used in connection with a congregation of believers.

For example, in **Hebrews 10:25**, you have that same phrase -

**25 Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.**

That was to show that this phrase, which is an unfortunate mis-translation, has caused added confusion. But the phrase should be in that very situation that it is ***the day of the Lord is now present.*** Therefore, in writing, what had happened was confusion of the trouble which had taken place as false shepherds tried to take little young converts as their sheep coming into the fold and thereby totally misleading them. There was a false letter which they said had come from Paul, but it had not. Therefore, at the end of this letter, Paul says, "You see this is my handwriting. I am signing this. Recognize this is me when I send this with my mark on it, that is, in my handwriting." Then they would not be confused by false teaching

You know, that is about the same today. Sometimes we hear a little

truth here and a little truth there and we get very confused, because we have those people who really are not handling the Word of God as the Word of the living God. They are not taking the Old and the New Testaments and seeing where one speaks to the other and giving the truth. It is most important not only for you, but for your loved ones if you know the Lord, that you are sound in doctrine as to what the Lord is saying, and acting upon what He is saying. Anybody who adds or takes from this is in a very precarious situation, according to the Word of God in the last Book in the Bible, **Revelation**. Be very careful we don't add or take from what God as said.

That is why I gave you the verse from **Zepheniah**, which is a terrible scene. Could you imagine such black, hopeless gloom? Then this is emphasized again: there is going to be an **appointed day of wrath**, but we don't have to face that wrath if we turn today to Jesus. Come to know him. Receive Him as your personal Saviour. Open your heart and say, *Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me. I receive you now. You alone are my Saviour.*

*In Thy precious Name. Amen.*