

1 THESSALONIANS 2 - "Paul's Conduct; Their Conversion; Longing to See Them!"

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Chuck Smith: The rapture is close. Jesus has warned us to watch for Him. Will you be ready when the Lord comes for His church?

Scripture References:

CHURCH SAVED FROM GREAT TRIBULATION

Romans 8:1 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10 2

Peter 2:4-10 Revelation 3:10, 11

GOD'S PROMISE *John 14:1-3*

RAPTURE *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

RAPTURE TRANSFORMATION *1*

Corinthians 15:51

READY FOR THE RAPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44 Matthew 25:1-13

Mark 13:32-37 Luke 17:26, 27, 34-37

Luke 21:34-36 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Smith, Chuck. The Rapture (Kindle Locations 525-529). The Word For Today. Kindle Edition.

J. Vernon McGee comments re the

Rapture of the church: "The coming of Christ for His church is called the Rapture of the Church. It is not a doctrine to argue about. It is a doctrine to live.

Unfortunately, there are many who believe Christ is coming after the Great Tribulation. There are those who believe He is coming before, and others who don't believe that He is coming at all, and yet they say that they trust Him as their Savior. For all the groups there is one important question: How does your interpretation affect your life? Does it do anything for you? If your view has no effect on your life, then you should reconsider what you believe. The expectation of the return of the Lord should be a motivating factor in the life of a believer."

In Chapter 1, Paul was thankful for the following regarding the Thessalonian church:

1. They were saved!
2. They had experienced the power of the gospel -- a church that had experienced the power of the Word of God!
3. They were a church that was serving the Lord – being influential through the entire region of Greece!
4. They were looking for the Lord's return – they were watching and waiting for the Lord's return!

Summary of 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2 (Albert Barnes)

- (1) **Ministers of the gospel should be entirely sincere, and without guile.** They should attempt to carry no measure - not even the conversion of sinners - by trick or management; *1Th 2:3-5*.
- (2) **They should not make it a point to please people;** *1Th 2:4*, they do please men; or if their ministry is acceptable to people, they should not regard it, indeed, as proof that they are unfaithful, for they "should have a good report of them that are without;" nor should they make it a point to displease people, or consider it a proof that because people are offended, therefore they are faithful; but it should not be their leading aim or purpose to gratify people. They should preach the truth; and if they do this, God will take care of their reputation, and give them just as much as they ought to have. The same principle should operate with all Christians. They should do right, and leave their reputation with God.
- (3) **Ministers of the gospel should be gentle, tender, and affectionate.** They should be kind in feeling, and courteous in manner - like a father or a mother; *1Th 2:7, 1Th 2:11*. Nothing is ever gained by a sour, harsh, crabby, dissatisfied manner. Sinners are never scolded either into duty or into heaven.
- (4) **Ministers should be willing to labor in any proper calling, if it is necessary for their own support or to do good;** *1Th 2:9*. It is, indeed, the duty of a people to support the gospel, but there may be situations where they are not able to do it, and a minister should be able to earn something, in some other way, and should be willing to do it.
- (5) **Every minister should be able to appeal to the people among whom he has labored in proof that he is an honest man, and lives consistently with his profession;** *1Th 2:1, 1Th 2:9-11*. The same remark applies to all other Christians. They should so live that they may at once refer to their neighbors in proof of the uprightness of their lives, and their consistent walk, But to be enabled to do this, a man should live as he ought - for the world generally forms a very correct estimate of character.
- (6) **The joy of a minister in the day of judgment will be measured by the amount of good which he has done, and the number of souls which he has been the means of converting and saving;** *1Th 2:19*. It will not be the honor which he has received from people; the titles which they have conferred on him; the commendation which he has received for eloquence or talent, or the learning which he has acquired, but it will be found in the number of those who have been converted from the error of their ways, and in the evidence of the good which he did on the earth.
- (7). **Paul expected evidently to recognize the Thessalonian Christians at the day of judgment, for he said that they would be then his "joy and crown of rejoicing"** *1Th 2:19*. But this could not be, unless he should be able to know those who had been converted by his instrumentality. If he expected then to recognize them, and to rejoice with them, then we also may hope to know our pious friends in that happy world. Nothing in the Bible forbids this hope, and we can hardly believe that God has created the strong ties which bind us to each other, to endure for the present life only.

1 THESSALONIANS 2 - “Paul’s Conduct; Their Conversion; Longing to See Them!”

OBSERVATION

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

1 Thessalonians 2 - Paul’s

Conduct;

1Th 2:1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.

1Th 2:2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

1Th 2:3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

1Th 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

1Th 2:5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.

1Th 2:6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

v. 1 ...*yourselves know*: Paul defended his own character and ministry before the Thessalonians, not that he was insecure about his ministry, but because he had many enemies in Thessalonica who discredited him in his absence, especially because of his hurried departure.

Paul wrote here in a personal manner. It really wasn’t a personal issue, but he knew that it mattered for the sake of the gospel. If Paul was discredited, then the gospel message itself would be discredited. ...*coming to you was not in vain*: The word *vain* (*kenos* - empty) here can refer either to the result of the ministry, or the character of the ministry. Because it was evident to everyone that Paul’s ministry in Thessalonica was a success, it is better to see it as a reference to the character of Paul’s ministry. His coming was not empty or hollow, as if he were a mere salesman or marketer. **Jesus said, You and you alone will be light and salt!**

v. 2 ...*spitefully treated at Philippi*: Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his sufferings in the ministry at Philippi, that he would not carry on in the face of beatings and conflict if he were in it only for himself. When Paul arrived in Thessalonica, they had seen the fresh wounds on his back. **I’m sure would have caused many of us to question whether or not it was really the leading of the Spirit to go to Macedonia.** ...*bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict*: Paul did not only preach the gospel when it was easy or convenient. He spoke boldly for the Lord even in much conflict. **Boldness is not natural, but supernatural! The greatest sermon you will ever preach is by the life that you live! Cf. Act 4:13, 29, 31; 9:27, 29; 13:46; 18:26; 19:8**

v. 3 ...*exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness*: The purity of Paul’s message made it apparent that there was no *deceit, uncleanness, or guile* in his ministry, in contrast to many competing religions, and many ministers of those religions were motivated by greed and gain. He reasoned from the Scripture; therefore, no error or uncleanness, nor deceit! The full message, that of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ! No seeker friendly methods!

v. 4 ...*approved by God*: Paul used a word here that was associated with approving someone as being fit for public service. ...*to be entrusted with the gospel* – **As a steward, we’ve been entrusted with the most important and precious thing there is, the good news of the Gospel! - 1Co 4:1-2 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. [2] Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.** ...*not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts*: Paul knew his gospel wouldn’t always please men, but he knew that it was pleasing to God. Paul preached the gospel as “good news”, but he never changed its central character or focus. He never compromised issues like man’s need, God’s Savior, the cross, the resurrection, and the new life of a born-again believer.

v. 5 ...*use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness*: Paul understood that *covetousness* always has a *cloak*. It is always concealed by a noble sounding goal. But Paul did not use the *flattering words* that often are a *cloak for covetousness, God is my witness to that.*

v. 6 *Nor did we seek glory from men*: As Paul ministered to the Thessalonians, he was not looking for, nor concerned for, personal glory. His satisfaction came from his relationship with Jesus, not from the praise of people. He was not looking for the praises of man, but to be counted faithful to God. He ministered from an understanding of his identity in Jesus. **When we might have made demands as apostles of Christ**: Paul could have *made demands* from the Thessalonians to give something to them, not to take something from them. He did not come making demands as an apostle.

v. 1 **If we are faithful in fulfilling the call of God on our hearts, as Paul was, and relying on the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit, our ministry will never be in vain! God knows how to protect His ministry!**

v. 2 Here we see that Paul’s bolding presenting the Gospel of God. On one hand many received and were saved, while on the other many rose up against Paul and said blasphemous things against him and his message. **Persecution or resistance can always be expected when preaching the exclusivity of Jesus Christ. We need to be careful not to move away from being bold! We need to pray for boldness – in truth, in love, in obedience!**

v. 3 Paul’s ministry to the Thessalonians is wonderful example of us and for our ministries, saying be followers of me even as I also am of Jesus Christ! **He was straight forward, using no deception, deceitfulness, moral impurity and guile!**

v. 4 Paul wasn’t seeking to please man, but he was seeking to please God. **That should also be our heart, as servants of God, to realize that we are not here to please man, but to please God. For one day, we must answer not to man but to God, He knows our hearts and our motives!**

v. 5 **Our ministry is not to consist of flattering words or covetousness!**

v. 6 **The Bible teaches a born-again believer is not to seek glory from men, but from God. Rom 2:29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

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1Th 2:7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

1Th 2:8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

1Th 2:9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

1Th 2:10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

1Th 2:11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 1Th 2:12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

v. 7 *But we were gentle* (like babes) *among you*: Paul was like *a nursing mother*, who **looks only to give to her child**. Some among the Thessalonians had accused Paul of ministering out of self-interest, but Paul simply asks the Thessalonians to remember the *gentle* character of his ministry, in a loving and compassionate way *among* them.

v. 8 *We were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives*: The sacrifices Paul endured for the sake of ministry to the Thessalonians were not a burden. He was **well pleased** to do it, because Paul was *affectionately*, tenderly, *longing* for the Thessalonians, *because* they *had become dear to* Paul and his associates. *But also our own lives*: Paul's preaching was effective because he gave not only the gospel, **but himself as well and he gave because of love** (*you had become dear to us*). Hear Paul's heart. It was not just the gospel that he wanted to impart to them, but his own soul because they were so dear. He had developed such love and affection for those Thessalonians.

v. 9 *For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil*: Paul recognized his right to be supported by those he ministered to (1Co 9:14), but voluntarily gave up that right to set himself apart from missionaries of false religions. Paul denied his rights and took a higher standard upon himself. *night and day*, Paul started work before dawn in order to be able to devote some part of the day to preaching.

v. 10 *You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe*: Notice that Paul could freely appeal to his own life as an example. He wanted people to look to Jesus, but he could also tell them to look at his life, because the power of Jesus was real in his life. (1Co 11:1; Php 3:17)

vs. 11-12 *How we exhorted, and comforted, and charged* (commanded, insisted) *every one of you . . . that you would walk worthy of God*: Paul himself lived *justly and blamelessly*, but he also told the Thessalonians they should live the same way. He could tell them that they should *walk worthy of God* because his life and message were consistent. *...that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory*. Paul exhorted them to walk worthy of God, telling them: You are a child of God now. You have been born again by the Spirit of God. You have become a part of the family of God, as a son of God. Now God is holy and God is pure! Because you are a child of God, you must be holy, be pure. You must walk in honesty, in purity, in holiness. Paul was exhorting them, charging them, as a father does his children, how they ought to walk, now that they have embraced Jesus Christ and Christianity.

v. 7 **Do the terms very gentle, tender, loving and compassionate way describe characteristics of your ministry? Of mine?**

v. 8 It has been said that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Paul gave both his care and his knowledge to the Thessalonians. **Do we?**

v. 9 The joy of being able to minister to people was so great, Paul didn't mind working, if necessary, in order to be able to share the gospel of God, *laboring night and day*.

v. 10 What a worthy goal for us Christians today! To live a life that declares *how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among* others. This should be our strong desire to live the kind of life that draws others to follow Jesus for themselves.

vs. 11-12 Paul testifies that he loved and cared for the Thessalonians as a father cares for his children. His mentioning three things – 1) How we **exhorted** you. 2) How we **comforted** you. 3) How we **charged** you, all challenging them as a father with his child that they should *walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory! What an example for us!*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Their Conversion

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

1Th 2:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did

1Th 2:15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, from the Judeans,

v. 13 *When you received the word of God:* Paul earnestly believed and taught others that God had spoken to man and that we have recorded this **word of God**. Paul believed in a voice that speaks to mankind with the authority of eternity, and speaks above mere human opinion. Since we do have this **word of God**, we have a true voice of authority. If we cannot know what God has spoken, then He may as well not have spoken at all. **You welcomed it, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God:** They received it, as it is in truth, with great reception! They were born again! Paul presented it **not as the word of men**, and the Thessalonians received it as **the word of God. Which also effectively works in you who believe:** Paul's confidence in the **word of God** wasn't a matter of wishful thinking or blind faith. He could see that it **effectively works in** those **who believe**. God's word **works**, it doesn't only bring information or produce feelings. There is power in the **word of God** to change lives. So, Paul is thanking God without ceasing as he mentions how he prays without ceasing, speaking of the Thessalonians, thankful how they received the Word of God. In Acts 17 Paul was alleging from the Scriptures how that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again. That Jesus was the Messiah. The word of the crucifixion of Jesus had spread through the world. Now he comes declaring to them that Jesus was the Messiah, even though He suffered and died, probably pointing out **Isaiah 53, 52, Psalm 16:10; 22, Daniel 9:24-27**, that the Messiah would be cut off, despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. And sharing with them these verses, showing that the Scriptures prophesied that Messiah would suffer and die and rise again! And thus, Jesus was the Messiah! And they received this. They looked at the Scriptures. They were convinced. They accepted Jesus as the Messiah. They received it as the Word of God as it is in truth. Story of Moody offer to accept debate offer from atheist – you bring one live that's been transformed; I'll bring 100!

v. 14 *For you also suffered the same things:* As they responded to the gospel, the Thessalonians became the targets of persecution. They were not alone, because that was common among **the churches (ekklesia) of God** at that time. The Thessalonians Christians became **imitators** of those who had suffered before them. The Thessalonians willingly **suffered the same things** because they were convinced that Paul brought them not the word of man, but the word of God. The word of man isn't worth suffering for, but a true message from God is worth it.

v. 15 *Who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets and have persecuted us:* Paul comforted these suffering Christians with the assurance that they were not the first to suffer this way. **The Lord Jesus** faced persecution, and the Christians in **Judea** faced it first. Additionally, Paul and his associates were also **persecuted**. **Who killed . . . the Lord Jesus:** Here Paul wrote that his own countrymen (**the Judeans**) had **killed . . . the Lord Jesus**. But Paul knew well that the Jews of Judea were not the **only** ones responsible for the murder of Jesus. The Romans had their full share of guilt, so **both** Jew and Gentile were guilty. **And they do not please God and are contrary to all men:** Paul also comforted them with the awareness that **they** were right, that **they** are the ones pleasing God. This was necessary assurance because they were persecuted by religious people, and might wonder if these other religious people were in fact right before God in their persecuting.

v. 13 The glorious thing about the gospel of Jesus Christ is that it works. It transforms a person's life, today as it has throughout the last 2,000 years. It is still effectual! It can still bring changes in people's lives! It can bring them from darkness to light! It can deliver them from the power of Satan and bring them into the Kingdom of God! The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, works in hearts and lives! It works, that's the thing! It is effectual in bringing to pass changes. It brings you from sorrow into joy, from unrest into peace, the glorious working of the Word of God in our hearts and lives today. **How we need to be reminded of these truths!**

v. 14 We're reminded that the preaching and accepting the gospel message always is accompanied by persecution. Here Paul is telling the Thessalonians as they responded to the gospel, they suffered the same things as the believers in Judea, from their own countrymen! **We always need to anticipate resistance from the enemy where great things are happening because of the gospel going out and changing lives!**

v. 15 In **Acts 7:52, Stephen** asked the council, which of the prophets did not your fathers kill? But you are worse than they were, because you killed the One, the prophesied, the Messiah! The Jews (**countrymen**) got so angry, they gnashed on him with their teeth, yelling and they drug Stephen out of the gate of the city and they stoned him to death as Paul stood by, consenting and holding the coats of those who stoned him. But now Paul and the believing Thessalonians, having received Jesus Christ are now the object of their hatred and their venom. **We should not be surprised to experience the same kind of thing!**

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1Th 2:16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

Longing to See Them

1Th 2:17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.

1Th 2:18 Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

v. 16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins: Here Paul revealed what offended the religious persecutors of the Thessalonians so much. They were outraged that Gentiles could be saved without first becoming Jews. This exclusive attitude filled **up the measure of their sins** (the total of their separate evil acts). The Jews themselves were vigorously engaged in this period of their history in actively proselyting Gentiles. Their fierce opposition was due to the fact that Christian missionaries offered salvation to Gentiles without demanding that they first become Jews. **But wrath has come upon them to the uttermost:** Paul comforted the Thessalonians by assuring them that God would indeed take care of their persecutors. When Christians forget this, they often disgrace and curse themselves by returning persecution for persecution towards others.

v. 17 Away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face: Paul knew that the Thessalonians appreciated the comfort he gave, but they wondered why he didn’t come and bring this comfort in person. They naturally thought that this would be much better. Yet Paul assured them that the reason was not a lack of love or desire on his part.

v. 18 We wanted to come to you . . . but Satan hindered us: It wasn’t that Paul did not *want* to visit the Thessalonians. It was that **Satan hindered** Paul and his associates. Paul assured the Thessalonians that he desired to be with them, but he was hindered by Satan, happening **time and again**. **The fact that Paul** gave no further explanation to the predominately Gentile believers, seems to indicate that in the few weeks he was there, Paul taught the Thessalonians much about Satan and spiritual warfare. Later, God brought the victory. Act 20:1-5 describes Paul’s eventual return to Macedonia and other churches in the area.

v. 16 When persecution comes, we must remember that God will indeed take care of the persecutors! God’s wrath will come upon them to the uttermost, not ours!

v. 17 Another great example of the love of Paul for the Thessalonians! He has such a heart to see them and to be with them, but present circumstances have prevented that! But he affirms that his heart is still with them and that he eagerly longs to see their faces and be with them. **Does our love for other believers demonstrate this?**

v. 18 Again, we see the mention made of Satan’s hindering Paul’s intentions and movement. Satan is a real foe, but **we must remember he is a defeated foe! He was defeated on the cross by our glorious Lord Jesus! Our God reigns! Was Satan successful in his hindering?**

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1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

1Th 2:20 For you are our glory and joy.

v. 19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Paul assured the Thessalonians that he could never forget them because they were his glory and his joy. His inability to visit should never be taken as a lack of love towards the Thessalonians. **Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?** That is our desire! That is our joy! That is what we are longing for, our hope, the crown of rejoicing? That when Jesus comes, then we will be there! We will be with Him at his coming!

- **The Crown of Rejoicing – (1Th 2:19-20)** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? [20] For you are our glory and joy. –the crown for soul winners!
- **The Crown of Righteousness (2Ti 4:7-8)** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. – Those who say, "it could be today!!" Those waiting, praying for His second coming with expectancy!
- **The Crown of Life (Jas 1:12)** Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
- **The Crown of Glory (1Pe 5:2-4)** The service we give to Him – worship, serving Him!
- **The Incorruptible Crown – (1 Cor. 9:25)** And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. - Given to those who run the race with discipline!
- **The Crown of Life - (Rev 2:10)** Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.

v. 20 For you are our glory and joy. That's the ministry, the work of God and seeing the work of God in the lives of people, it's a joy and the reward of the ministry! **3Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.** To see our children! To see believers going on serving the Lord, growing in the things of the Lord. What a joy that is—That's the heart of the ministry! What a glory! What a joy!

VICTORY IN JESUS – E.M. Bartlett Joslin Grove Choral

I I heard an old, old story, How a Savior came from glory, How He gave His life on Calvary, To save a wretch like me; I heard about His groaning, Of His precious blood's atoning, Then I repented of my sins And won the victory.

Chorus: O victory in Jesus, My Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me With His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him And all my love is due Him, He plunged me to victory, Beneath the cleansing flood.

2 I heard about His healing, Of His cleansing pow'r revealing. How He made the lame to walk again And caused the blind to see; And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, Come and heal my broken spirit," And somehow Jesus came and bro't To me the victory. (Chorus)

3 I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory. And I heard about the streets of gold Beyond the crystal sea; About the angels singing, And the old redemption story, And some sweet day I'll sing up there The song of victory. (Chorus)

v. 19 Joy and evangelism go hand in hand. May we would never lose sight of the privilege, priority, and pure joy of sharing the good news of the gospel with people who don't yet know Jesus.

v. 20 What glory! What joy! Paul says that one of the great things he anticipates when Christ comes to take His church will be the opportunity to see these people whom he has led to the Lord. The Thessalonian believers whom he had won to Christ were a joy for him here and would be hereafter forever! What a promise!

What can I do to make a difference? As a husband? As a wife? As parents? As children? Just take our little place and be obedient and faithful to Him in that place He has called us to! That's where the change can begin! Our national moral standards are rapidly falling! How will we spend this week? Eating, drinking, giving in marriage as if time is always going on! We need to bold! Bold in love. Bold to live holy! Bold to live differently! Bold to carry that gospel! There isn't a week to be lost. Busy about the things of eternity? We know what the Lord can do! Our lives to be like Paul's life. No difference between our lives and the gospel message we preach!