

## Elder Ronnie Loudermilk



### Words of Comfort:

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, **"And to you that are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."**

The Redeemer's return is an event that has brought comfort and peace to the family of God throughout the generations. While living in a world which is full of toil and pain this one event has strengthened the servants of the Lord to fight the good fight of faith while looking toward the heavens in hope of seeing their precious Savior. The Apostle Paul was very much informed of the troubles and trials that the disciples of Thessalonica faced on an everyday basis. The Apostle also knew the greatest way to comfort and encourage these brethren and sisters was to remind them that the toils of this life would soon end, when Jesus Christ Himself would return to take His children home to glory.

In the verses previously cited, the Apostle Paul teaches us of at least four things we should expect in the Saviors return, which are:

**(1)** Rest and peace (vs 7, "rest with us")! Paul instructs the troubled saints to rest in the hope of Jesus' return. The experiential blessing which they were able to enjoy at

that time was in like manner, but could never exceed, the whole reality of rest which will be enjoyed by the entire elect family of God when we see Jesus! I know that every saint, who has believed the truth, is very thankful for the peace that they have experienced. Even this pales in comparison to the day when we all see the Savior in the clouds.

**(2)** Revelation (vs 7, "Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven")! Through the years, many children of God have sat on the pews and listened to the preacher declare and proclaim the power of the Lord. We have been blessed to hear sermons about the parting of the Red Sea; the fire that came down in Elijah's day; the stopping of the lion's mouths in Daniel's day; and the healing of the lepers, blind, deaf and dumb. Many saints have trusted in the One who possesses that power in their time of trouble. Hallelujah brothers and sisters, one day we will see that power when we see Jesus. Job said in Job 19:25-27, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the later day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

**(3)** Vengeance upon the wicked (vs's 8-9, "In flaming fire taking vengeance", "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction")! The Thessalonians faced persecutions and saw the effects of the wicked on an everyday basis. Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for him to be "delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for all men have not faith" (2 Thes 3:2). Paul assured the saints that the wicked (non-elect) would not go unpunished. Every wicked person will stand before the Just and Holy Throne of God one day and be judged for their wicked works. Jesus is coming one day to make all the wrongs right and take His children to a mansion in glory where no sin will, nor can ever exist.

**(4)** Unity of the saints (vs 10, "admired in all them that believe")! Through false teaching, the efforts of Satan, and the ignorance of the depraved mind, the children of God in this world are divided concerning the truth in Jesus Christ. I have a book in my library concerning all the different denominations that are found in the U.S. alone. Praise God, one day every child of God will believe the same thing, Salvation by Grace and Grace Alone in Jesus Christ our Savior. How many times did the Thessalonians experience divisions in their homes and families concerning the

truth? How often do the saints in the year 2016 suffer the same? One sweet and glorious day, dear child of the King, there will be no division, but we will "all" be together in one place worshiping Jesus Christ, who saved us from our sins on the Cross of Calvary! Amen!

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