

1 Thessalonians 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come—*anamenein* (ἀναμένειν, 'to wait expectantly') describes eager anticipation, not passive delay. The Thessalonians' conversion reoriented time itself: no longer living for present pleasure or fearing death, they eagerly awaited **his Son from heaven** (*ton huion autou ek tōn ouranōn*, τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν). This is Paul's earliest written reference to the *parousia*, introducing the letter's major theme (4:13-18; 5:1-11).

Whom he raised from the dead—resurrection validates Jesus's claims and guarantees believers' resurrection (4:14). **Which delivered us from the wrath to come** (*ton rhyomenon hēmas ek tēs orgēs tēs erchomenēs*, τὸν ῥυόμενον ἡμᾶς ἐκ τῆς ὀργῆς τῆς ἐρχομένης)—the present participle 'delivering' indicates continuous rescue. Christ's return brings wrath for unbelievers (5:3, 9) but deliverance for believers (1:10; 5:9). The Thessalonians turned from idols (past), served God (present), and waited for Christ (future)—conversion reorients all three temporal dimensions.

Historical Context

The expectation of Christ's imminent return shaped the Thessalonian church's worldview. Some apparently quit working, believing the *parousia* was so near that normal life was pointless (4:11-12; 2 Thess 3:10-12). Others worried that believers

who died before Christ's return would miss the resurrection (4:13-18). Paul addresses both extremes, teaching eager expectation without date-setting (5:1-11) and continued faithful work while watching (4:11-12). This tension between 'already' and 'not yet' has marked Christianity ever since.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does expectant waiting for Christ's return from heaven differ from vague hope that things will work out eventually?
2. What evidence demonstrates that your life is genuinely oriented toward Christ's coming rather than merely affirming it intellectually?
3. How does the certainty of Christ's resurrection and future deliverance from wrath change your response to present persecution or trials?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀναμένειν	τῆς	υἱὸν	αὐτοῦ	ἐκ	τῆς	οὐρανῶν	ὃν
And	to wait for	which	Son	his	from	which	heaven	whom
G2532	G362	G3588	G5207	G846	G1537	G3588	G3772	G3739
ἤγειρεν	ἐκ	νεκρῶν	Ἰησοῦν	τῆς	ρυσόμενον	ἡμᾶς	ἀπὸ	
he raised	from	the dead	even Jesus	which	delivered	us	from	
G1453	G1537	G3498	G2424	G3588	G4506	G2248	G575	
τῆς	ὀργῆς	τῆς	ἐρχομένης					
which	the wrath	which	to come					
G3588	G3709	G3588	G2064					

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Judgment): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Matthew 3:7 (Judgment): But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Acts 2:24 (Resurrection): Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Hebrews 9:28 (Parallel theme): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Romans 4:25 (Resurrection): Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

1 Peter 3:18 (Parallel theme): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 1:3 (Resurrection): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Romans 8:34 (Resurrection): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

1 Peter 1:21 (Resurrection): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Acts 1:11 (References Jesus): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.