

2 Thessalonians 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

Analysis

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him—erōtōmen (ἐρωτῶμεν, 'we ask/beseech') begins the letter's main burden. **By** (hyper, ὑπέρ, 'concerning/about') introduces the topic: **the coming** (parousias, παρουσίας, arrival/presence) of Christ and **our gathering together** (episynagōgēs, ἐπισυναγωγῆς, assembly/collection) to Him.

This references the rapture—believers caught up to meet Christ (1 Thess. 4:16-17). Paul will correct false teaching that this 'day of the Lord' had already occurred (v. 2). The church's reunion with Christ anchors Christian hope; confusion about its timing causes spiritual chaos. Paul grounds correction in pastoral gentleness—'brethren'—not harsh condemnation.

Historical Context

Some Thessalonians apparently received forged letters claiming Paul taught the day of the Lord had arrived. This created panic: had they missed the rapture? Were they in the tribulation? Paul writes to calm fears and expose the deception with clear prophetic teaching.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does confusion about Christ's return affect daily Christian living?
2. What false teachings about the end times have you encountered, and how did you test them?
3. Why does Paul connect doctrinal correction with pastoral tenderness ('brethren')?

Interlinear Text

Ἐρωτῶμεν	δὲ	ὕμᾱς	ἀδελφοί	ὑπὲρ	τῆς	παρουσίας	τοῦ
we beseech G2065		Now G1161	you G5209	brethren G80	by G5228	the coming G3588	G3588
κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	καὶ	ἡμῶν	ἐπισυναγωγῆς	
Lord G2962	by our G2257	Jesus G2424	Christ G5547	and G2532	by our G2257	gathering together G1997	
ἐπ'	αὐτόν						
unto G1909	him G846						

Additional Cross-References

Mark 13:27 (Parallel theme): And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Matthew 24:31 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (References Jesus): To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Matthew 25:32 (Parallel theme): And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (References Jesus): 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?

2 Timothy 4:1 (References Jesus): I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;