

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!
What Did You Expect?
I Thessalonians 2:13-16

Introduction

1. **“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”** - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
2. What did you expect when you came to Christ? Many people expect Jesus to:
 - **Give them a “Get out of Hell Free” card with no responsibilities on their part.**
 - Give them constant convenience, comfort, and prosperity.
 - Answer every prayer exactly their way according to their desires.
3. **It is time for God’s people to “get real.”** In today’s passage Paul outlined the two basic expectations every believer needs to have when coming to Christ.

I Thessalonians 2:13-16 - *And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved--so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But God's wrath has come upon them at last!*

What Should You Expect?

1. Expect God to honor His Word.
 - Remember, all Scriptures are God-breathed. Vs. 13, II Tim. 3:16 - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*
 - **The Spirit uses God’s Word to convict sinners.** Vs. 13, Jn. 16:8 - *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:*
 - **The Spirit uses God’s Word to transform believers.** Vs. 13, Col. 1:9-10 - *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

- **The Spirit uses God's Word to enable** believers to persevere. Vs. 14, Col. 1:11 - *May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,*

2. Expect Satan to oppose **God's Word.**

- He motivated the religious leaders to kill Christ. Vs. 15, Mt. 27:25 - *And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"*
- **He opposes God's messengers.** Vs. 15, 18
- He opposes all mankind. Vs. 15-16, II Cor. 4:4 - *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
- He and his servants will face the wrath of God. Vs. 16, Mt. 23:29-33 - *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?"*

Now What?

1. If you have put off repenting of your sin and trusting Christ as your Lord and Savior, delay no longer! You are in great danger! Turn from your sinful pride and turn to Christ.
2. **Christian, it is time to "get real" about what it means to follow the Lord.**
 - We are not on a luxury cruise, we are at war with the devil.
 - It is time to die to self daily and to serve our Savior daily!

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." - Galatians 2:20