

1Thessalonians 12-02-24a

This is Friday, the 24th of February, 2012. We're in the Book of 1 Thessalonians. We'll finish Chapter 1 and move into Chapter 2 this evening.

We'll take a moment at the outset, as is our custom, to give us all the opportunity to go to the Lord individually in prayer, and then we will pray together and begin our study. Father, we're grateful for this time of fellowship and investigation of the truth of your Word. We thank you for its preservation.

We thank you for its provision to us in such ample and manifold ways. We thank you for each one joining us in fellowship this evening and the gifts that they bring, which are enabled and guided by your Holy Spirit. We pray that all of these will work together to produce edification and encouragement for the time that remains to us in this life, and that we will have a fruitful study that will help to equip us for every good work.

We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen. You remember the occasion for the writing of this letter.

We're going to see in the first verse of Chapter 2 that Paul is going to kind of refer again to the nature of the circumstance that has produced it. But let's read a little bit of this to kind of refresh our minds. Let's begin at verse 6. You became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the Word in much affliction.

And you remember that whole story of the affliction. It was primarily a result of the Jews who became jealous. They had had the monopoly, sort of cornered the market on Israelite type religion, the religion of the one God, the Creator God of Abraham.

And here came Paul preaching Christ, preaching an advance and a fulfillment and a forward movement in the plans and purposes of God. People who had just been mildly interested found what they were looking for. People that might still have been sort of playing all sides of the table and perhaps still engaged in a little bit of idol worship and had just sort of added the God of Israel to their pantheon realized that Christ was the answer and the fulfillment and abandoned that idol worship.

And Paul makes reference to that as you go forward. Received the Word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit. And the reception was with joy.

Now, here's a question we can ask ourselves. For some of us, we're still relatively new to the study of the Word of God. Some of our young people have been in big church only for a shorter time than some of the rest of us that have been doing it a long time.

But here's the question. Does the presentation of the Word of God, does looking at the Word of God and ascertaining its truth, does it still give us joy? Do we enjoy the Word of God or is it sort

of a drudge? Is it a little bit of a duty, kind of a chore? Well, I have to go. It'll look bad if I don't.

I can think of other places I'd rather be. If it wasn't for my spouse or if it wasn't for my parents or if it wasn't for my kids, I might be doing something else. And it's okay if the answer to that question is, yeah, I really can think of other places I'd rather be right this moment.

That's okay. And here's why. You can't talk yourself into joy.

It's either there or it's not. And it's a helpful thing to look at yourself as you come to the study of the Word of God or as you come to a time of meditation on it. Believe me, if the Word of God isn't currently creating joy, you're not going to take time during the day to meditate on it.

You just won't. Why would you? Why would you inflict drudgery on yourself? There's enough of it to go around in other areas of life. And so the only way we're really going to be motivated to do the meditation that we need to do every day without it being a drudge and a chore and an angst-filled, hair-shirt, dismal activity is we've got to figure out how does this joy arrive.

If I don't currently have joy, and again, if you don't, this is a good time to analyze that. Don't just feel guilty and kind of push it into a corner and say, well, I'll have joy next time. Let's figure this thing out.

What's the problem where we're not like the Thessalonians? We're not like the Bereans. We're not like some of the people that when the Word of God comes, it just creates excitement. It's interesting.

I'd rather do this than be watching Animal Planet or whatever your favorite show is. Why would we prefer this? Why would this be a source of great interest? Well, it isn't a thing you can just decide. When you're a late teenager or an early 20s person, you meet someone or you get introduced to someone or you get set up with someone on a date, and all of the externals are right.

You're a believer, they're a believer. You go to church, they go to church. You're an attractive, interesting person, they're an attractive, interesting person.

You're parents like them, they're parents like you. You're the right height, you look good together. It's all just going down a road of inevitability.

And you say, you know, I should like this person. I should love this person. I should be infatuated.

This should just be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. And we should be saying, I do, sometime in the near future. Well, and you go and spend time, and the excitement isn't there.

The enjoyment just isn't there. You wind up sort of resisting the urge to drum your fingers on the table or look over their shoulder or turn on your iPod or something. And you can't manufacture.

This is my point. You cannot manufacture joy. Look at these people.

When you heard the word, you received it with joy. These people didn't have to work at joy. They didn't get browbeaten into joy.

They weren't guiltified into joy. Parents didn't say, how come you're not enjoying this? Do I have to remind you? How come you're not ready yet? Why am I having to chase you around? If I wasn't here, would you go? This kind of thing. They received it with joy.

So this is my question. Where do we get this joy? We know we should have it. We feel guilty when we don't have it.

We ought to have it. We know better if we don't have it. So we can't choose it any more than we can choose to like somebody just because everybody else thinks it's a great idea.

So where does it come from? Well, you tell me. What are the three things that describe human thought? How do we here typically categorize human thought? What are our three big categories? We have goals. What else? Values and priorities, right? Goals, values, and priorities.

I think, personally, you can put all your thoughts into one of those categories. You say, well, I like having fun. Well, is that a goal, a value, or a priority? Well, it can fit into multiple things.

My goal is to have fun. When I get up in the morning, I'm going to do whatever I can to have fun. If fun is weaving through traffic, then I'm going to weave through traffic because that's my goal, to have fun.

If it is to get my work done as quickly as possible so I can get to my favorite video game or my favorite piece of music or my favorite piece of video or whatever it may be, then I'm going to get all my work done because my goal, like Cindy Lauper or whoever it was, girls just want to have fun, fun. Girls just want to have fun. Remember, who's that other? Sheryl Crow.

Sheryl Crow. All I want to do is have some fun. It was her big song.

Everybody wants to have fun. Nothing wrong with that. I want to have fun.

You want to have fun. Don't lie. You want to have fun.

So what would be nice is if the study of the Word of God, and as soon as you say study, the fun just drains out. Study, fun, these are oxymoronic, non-reconcilable concepts. So let's not say study.

Let's say explore. It's all vocabulary. See, this is political season.

It's all the spin. It's all the vocabulary that you use. But think about it now.

What's not to like about the truth of the Word of God? You say, well, when I think about it, it's the lecture format. I don't want to sit and listen to some guy ramble on for 30 or 40 minutes. It would be more fun if I could ask questions, if I could just stop him.

Well, I will tell you now, if you have a question, just stop me. That's the great thing about a small group. There's not so many of you that I can't still get through the lesson if you stop me.

So if you have a question, stick up your hand. By the way, we used to do this a lot more than we have lately. And I don't quite know, I think because I talk too fast for you to stick your hand up.

But years ago, we did go a little slower, and people would stick their hand up. So I will tell you now, if you're curious about something, don't be bashful. I'll only humiliate you if you deserve it.

No, I will not humiliate you. But feel free. I think one of the reasons that God puts highly curious, highly motivated students in small groups is so that there is more interaction.

We don't have to have just a straight lecture format. And believe me, if you say, well, I'll ask that question later. No, you won't, because you'll forget.

And if you try to write it down, you'll look at your note later, and you'll say, what did that mean? It meant something when I wrote it, but now I don't know. And I can't go up there and say, Sam, what does this mean? I wrote something down, and now I don't know what it was. So please, if you have a question, if you say, you know, I wonder what that means in the light of this other passage, just stick up your hand.

It's like stump the pastor. It'll be fun. Seriously, it'll be fun.

If you can do it, great, because you probably can. So one thing is, if our format is sucking the life out of Bible study, then we need to change our format, because it is not inherently dull. And it certainly isn't dull to me, but the advantage to me is, I can go wherever I want.

I can ask any question I want. I can answer any question I want. Well, you should be able to do the same.

And so let's be sure that we're not creating a situation that just makes it all black and white instead of living color. You know this, and I know this. There's a lot of really fascinating material in the Word of God, but sometimes we don't get to it.

So let's try to get to it. If you think we're not getting to it, stick up your hand and say, you know, what I'd like to know, what would fascinate me is this over here. How come you didn't talk about this word right here? Hold the pastor's feet to the fire.

Make him cover the interesting stuff. Okay? But look at this now, and don't miss it. The Thessalonians received the word with joy.

Now, do you think when Paul came to this idol-worshipping, Judaizer-infested town that people didn't have questions? You don't think they stopped and said, now wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute. You're talking about this Jesus way over in Israel someplace. Romans got him and executed him.

What is that to me? Well, look at the rest of this verse, this paragraph actually. He says, You received our gospel and became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word, even though there was much affliction. The affliction didn't bother them.

It didn't take away the joy of it. With the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to everyone in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. They're not much good as an example to those who don't believe, because they can't figure it out.

But to others who believe, they say, you know what? That's the way to do it. Is get the apostle there. He's got more information about this Jesus Christ, and about this salvation, and about this coming age, and about this coming kingdom, and about, for crying out loud, resurrection from the dead.

None of these idols promise me any resurrection from the dead. Jupiter, and Athena, and Aphrodite, and, you know, all of this Greek and Roman pantheon gods, they don't say anything about coming back from the dead. And this Paul is talking about life from the dead.

This Jesus came back to life, and he has promised that everybody who believes in him is coming back to life. Notice when he continues, what does he say? For from you the word of the Lord is sounded forth, Macedonia and Achaia, every place. Notice he mentioned the region twice.

Macedonia and Achaia, Macedonia and Achaia. They are known for this. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we don't need to say anything, for they themselves declare concerning us, what? What manner of entry we had among you.

And Paul has mentioned this two or three times. What kind of reception we had among you. What the nature of our coming to you was.

Now, let's think about this for a minute. What kind of reception did Paul get in Thessalonica? Do you remember from Acts? We went over there to Acts, was it 17? Read all about this? What kind of reception did he get? Well, we would call it a hot reception. He did fine for a while, and then things got hot.

Started riots, got arrested, got kicked out of town. And this became notorious. At the same time, there were other people that warmly received them and embraced them and took them into their homes and were fascinated by what he had to say.

So it was very polarizing. Some people hated them, some people loved them. But it made a stir,

right? They know how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from Heaven.

See, this is a new thing. When they were hanging around the synagogue, nobody said, well, let's read the Law and the Prophets and then let's wait for the Son of God from Heaven. There was no waiting.

Why did they receive this new word with so much joy? Because now there is a hope. It's not just regulations and this is how you ought to do and this is how you ought to be in time. So I'm back to my question.

If the study of the Word of God, there's that word again, study, if the investigation and the exploration and the meditation on the Word of God, if thinking about it and looking at it isn't an occasion for joy and interest, what's missing? I would suggest that what's missing is the same thing that was missing with the Judaizers who, covering Scripture, they've got the Old Testament, they've got the Law and the Prophets and the writings and they're covering it in the synagogue. But when Paul came, suddenly there is joy and these people latch on and want to go with this new teaching rather than sticking with the Jews and the Judaizers in the synagogue. Why? What is the difference? The difference is in this teaching from Paul there is expectation.

There is future hope. Hope does not disappoint. What is it that excites us? Why do we want to do something and we think it's going to be fun? We have an expectation, don't we? Wow, when I strap this bungee cord onto my ankle and jump off this bridge, it's going to be... Well, for me it wouldn't be fun.

For some people. For me, I would die of a heart attack before I got below the surface of the bridge. I just don't think that would be fun.

But there are people who think when I jump off here, why would they strap that stuff on? Why would they jump off of a bridge on a rubber band? Because they expect it's going to be fun. Why does somebody skydive? They think it's going to be fun. Why does somebody roller skate? Why does somebody go fishing? Why does somebody play paintball? Why would you get all dressed up in the goggles and pay the money and get your thing? Why would you do that? Because you expect to shoot people and it's going to be fun.

You don't think getting shot is fun. You think shooting people is fun if you're normal. Right? But there's expectation.

And not everybody in this room is normal. I know from seeing them after paintball. But it's expectation, right? So here's my second question.

We're trying to figure out. Now I want to be sure that when I am contemplating, when I turn my attention to the truth of God's Word, which is really the reality. It's the truth of heaven.

It's the truth of earth. It's the truth of my soul. It's the truth of what's happening in my life today and tomorrow and in the future.

It is the information that tells me the way things really are and helps me understand what I should do, right? That's fairly interesting. But where is this expectation? Well, Paul is going to talk about that. He's going to remind the Thessalonians.

Look as we continue. You turn from idols to serve the living and true God. And you think, well, serving, that doesn't sound very exciting.

Why would they receive the Word with joy if all they're going to do is serve? This sounds like putting a towel over your arm and bringing the plates and picking up the dishes and serving. By the way, I was thinking about this on the way home for some reason. Those of us who have been in the military, occasionally someone very well-meaning, very well-intentioned, and God bless them.

I know they do nothing, but they have the very best things in their heart. But they will come up and say, thank you for your service. It always puts me in a strange position because on the one hand, it's very gracious and very thoughtful of the person to try to express that sentiment.

But I hate being thanked for my service. I hate it. It just gives me the crawlies.

It makes me want to be somewhere else because I don't feel like I deserve any thanks for that. I got paid. It was a conscious choice.

It was a career path. And yes, there's an element of patriotism, but I mean, I could just as easily turn around and say, well, thank you for paying your taxes. Thank you for your service.

Well, thank you for paying your taxes. If you hadn't paid your taxes, I wouldn't have had any money to get paid for my service. It is your patriotic duty to pay your taxes.

It's your patriotic duty to obey the laws. Well, thank you for your obedience. I mean, wouldn't you feel funny if somebody came up to you when they saw you stop at a stop sign and said, thank you for your obedience? Well, if you can enter into that a little bit, that's how it feels to me.

Now, there's other people that may love me and thank me for their service. I'm not one of them. It just gives me the crawlies.

I just... It feels very inappropriate. If I had lost my arms and legs crawling to save a foxhole full of guys and dragged them all back to safety or something and won the Medal of Honor, okay, thank that guy for his service. I just went and shot rounds and trained troops and did inspections and stood inspections and did the kind of stuff you do.

I just... A thank you for that seems strange. Service. I'm talking about service.

You serve, right? These people turned away from idols to serve the living God. Paul doesn't say, thank you for your service, does he? He says, I thank God for you. I thank God for your interest, for your motivation, for your joy from the Holy Spirit.

Why? Turning from idols to serve the living and true God and what? To wait for His Son from heaven. This is the new thing. This is the interesting thing.

This is where the joy comes from. Now, there's an expectation. If you've got favorite cousins that live in another state, you've got favorite family members, you've got a sister or a brother in their family and they're off in another state and it's the holidays or it's a special time.

They're going to come on vacation and visit and you're expecting them. Wow. It's exciting.

You don't mind cleaning up. You don't mind fixing up the spare room. You don't mind laying in some extra chow.

Killing the fatted calf, getting some steaks, laying them up, saying, boy, when they get here, we're going to cook steaks. We're going to have fish or whatever it is we're going to have. We're going to have their favorite meal.

I'm going to bake a pie. I'm going to go show them the sites. We're going to go to Six Flags.

We're going to do this, that and the other because they're coming. You are expectant. There's joy of anticipation of the reunion with these people that you love.

Well, if the prospect of receiving the Word of God, i.e., either coming to Bible class or taking a little time out of the day to stop and meditate on the Word of God, if it doesn't have a joy element in it, here's how we can fix that. And we need to fix it. We know we need to fix it.

We feel guilty when we're not excited about the Word of God. So here's what's missing. According to the Apostle Paul, where is the waiting for his Son from heaven? Ask yourself this question.

Do I want Jesus to stay in heaven because my favorite show is coming on and I don't want to miss it? I wish Jesus would stay in heaven because I'm having a pretty good time with my little activity here. Seriously, does anybody think that? Of course not. Not if you're in your right mind.

Not if you've got a thimble full of knowledge of what's coming when the Lord Jesus comes. That's going to be great, right? Well, when we're expecting somebody and we're excited about it, we make preparation, don't we? We want things to be as ideal as possible. We want them to come and just be wowed.

We want them to enjoy, to look around and say, Hey, this is great. We're really glad we came. You don't go around scattering garbage through the house and putting something especially

smelly in their room.

And when they get here and they walk in and they go, I'm kind of sorry we made the drive. This is terrible. Is there a motel nearby? We don't want to stay here.

It's cluttered. It's uncomfortable. Everybody's got a frown on their face.

You're all arguing and fighting. I think we'll just go down there. Didn't I see a Motel 6 back here? They left the light on for us.

We're going to go down there, right? So we don't do that. Everybody's excited. But when somebody's coming, you make preparation.

You want to be ready. You want them to be as excited to see you as you are to see them, right? Is this not true? So, when it comes to looking at the truth of the Word of God and the effect that it has inside us, the Lord Jesus is coming. You turned away from idols to serve the living God and to wait for His Son from Heaven.

These Thessalonians, you know, the big part of that joy of the Holy Spirit is they've got something to look forward to. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to come for them. And they're waiting expectantly and they're excited about it.

And when you're excited about somebody coming, you get ready. Well, understanding the truth of the Word of God, being ready to participate when the Lord Jesus comes, He's not just going to come and stand there like a mosaic or a fresco or a painting. He's not going to stand there and strike a pose like they do in the movies.

Have you ever seen The Greatest Story Ever Told? That is the worst movie ever made. The Greatest Story Ever Told, the worst movie ever made. It's awful.

I have a DVD of that thing that I cannot give away. Nobody will watch it. Max von Sydow plays Jesus.

That should tell you something right there. The most grim-looking, sour-faced European guy you can imagine. He's got the long face.

He's Jesus. And all He does, all they do through that whole movie is just strike poses. Jesus stands here.

Everybody's kneeling. People are going like this. It is the most dismal.

Trust me when I tell you, it is not worth watching. Well, this is the idea some people have about the return of the Lord Jesus. Not at all.

The Lord Jesus has got a plan. He's dynamic. He's powerful.

The plan of God is going to move forward. There's this tremendous kingdom coming. There's all kinds of activity.

There's going to be clean-up after the Tribulation that the lackeys and the people that are far from God are going to have to do. They're going to be out there with their shovels and their trash cans on wheels and their trash trucks and their poles and little nuclear markers. Stay away from here.

This is radioactive. That's what the hod carriers and the hewers and haulers are going to be doing. We have the opportunity to do tremendous things.

Space travel is nothing. The galaxies that the Hubble shows you, it's nothing compared to what is coming with the Lord Jesus. To wait for His Son from Heaven.

If that doesn't get your heart rate up, if that doesn't excite you, if it doesn't motivate you to want to understand, to want to be read into the picture, to know the plan. When somebody shows up, you don't just want to stand around looking at each other. Come on in.

We've got food. We've got a place for you to stay. We're ready for you.

Are you ready for the Lord Jesus? If you're waiting for God's Son from Heaven, are you ready if He gets here? What would you do if the Lord Jesus walked in the door right now? Would you have any idea of what His plan is? What's Jesus going to do when He comes back? Well, if you can't answer that question just like this, now we have an interest. I need to know what's in the Word of God. I need to be investigating this because it all weaves together.

Old Testament, prophecy of what's going to happen when the Lord comes. What He's going to do. What He's going to continue to do.

What He's always done. Life of the Lord Jesus. Look at the way He talks.

Look at His priorities. Look at His goals. Look at His values.

Wouldn't I want to share those goals and values and priorities? Think like He thinks so that we can be companions? If I'm going to walk with Him in white, what would I say? Here's the Lord Jesus. I'm walking right beside Him. I can ask Him any question I want.

Am I just going to vapor lock and not be able to ask a question? Or ask a stupid question? Wouldn't I want to know what the Lord Jesus is up to and be able to help Him do it? Be ready. Have the skills. Have the knowledge.

To wait for His Son from Heaven. Listen. Here's the point.

The joy in receiving the Word of God and waiting for His Son from Heaven, these two things are inextricably linked. If you don't know the Word, you're not really waiting for the Son. And if you're

not really waiting for the Son, you're not really interested in the Word.

And my only question now is, what's the matter with us if we're in that category? What's wrong with us? The Lord Jesus saved us. He died for us. This is life from the dead.

Look at this. Wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. What does Paul remind these Thessalonians of about Jesus? He doesn't say to wait for His Son from Heaven, who was born of a virgin in Bethlehem and they found Him in a manger.

He doesn't say the boy Jesus at the temple. He doesn't say Jesus who sat by the sea. What does He say? The Lord Jesus who is coming back and is going to deliver us from the wrath to come.

It's looking forward. It's anticipating. And this ought to excite us.

It ought to motivate us. Hope is the motivation for the Christian life. So, once again, what's the problem? I see these Thessalonians having joy.

I see Paul bragging on them for having joy. My conscience and the Holy Spirit tells me I should have joy. Don't tell anybody, but where does the joy come from? Hope is the motivation.

If we're motivated... So, how do we fix this? I hear you saying all that, but I still don't really feel this joy. Well, motivation, looking ahead, this is what creates the anticipation. This is what creates the interest.

This is what fuels our soul. And this is what's lacking. If we're not really jazzed by looking at the Word of God and finding out things that it says that we didn't know before, it's because we're not looking ahead.

We're not thinking ahead. We're caught up too much in the moment. And this is something we can decide.

You can't go out on a date with somebody that you got fixed up with and decide to like them, decide to love them, decide to be infatuated with them. But what you can do is you can decide ahead of time to be ready, to be skilled, to be prepared, to be knowledgeable. You can decide ahead of time, I am not going to be caught up in the moment.

I'm going to think ahead. Think about young people going to college. We've got a lot that have done that and are doing it and will be doing it one of these days.

When you go to college you can say, I'm really hoping that college is going to be one big party and I've heard all these frats and concerts and activities. But if you look at college, there's going to be life after college and sooner or later you have to leave. You can't just stay there forever.

I mean, people try. But if you take the longer view and you say, you know what, to really get the

most out of college I need to be thinking about what I want to do, the career I want to have, I want to prepare myself for the future. And when you anticipate the future, you can take a bigger interest in your classes.

You say, oh, this class is dull. But when you say, you know what, I need this class because this is what I'm going to do with my life, now that anticipation creates interest, it creates motivation, and suddenly what you thought was not so interesting becomes interesting and sometimes even fun. I never thought I was going to like this.

I was horrified at the thought of having to be an English major. I was forced into it at gunpoint, almost literally. Be an English major or flunk out.

You know, tough choice. Okay, English. I didn't like English at all.

But when I realized that this was now going to be my forte, and I got into it a little bit, I thought, you know, actually this is pretty good. I didn't realize all of these things. Anticipation.

Our hope and our joy are related. So, this is the antidote. This is the solution.

This is the cure. If you find yourself dreading Bible class, if you find yourself having a hard time setting aside time for meditation day by day, which I would say is more important than Bible class, I would rather you stop going to Bible class and meditate every day than make every Bible class and never meditate. And by meditate, it sounds like some kind of Eastern, you know, say your mantra and hum to yourself.

Just set aside some time and just think, just stop and reflect for a minute. It's really more like reflection. It's like stopping and remembering who we are and why we're here.

We call that meditate because that's what Psalm 1 says. He meditates in the law of the Lord day and night. He's like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth his fruit.

He's anticipating. He's sucking up the water. He's getting his roots into the soil because he's looking forward to the fruit.

He's preparing for the time of storm when his dead branches are going to get broken off, but he's looking ahead. The tree planted by the rivers of water is preparing. That's why he stays by the river.

That's why he soaks up that water. That's why he doesn't walk in the council of the ungodly or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of the scornful. Why does he delight in the law of the Lord? Why does he meditate in the law of the Lord day and night? He enjoys it because he's looking ahead.

And it shows him what's ahead. It paints the picture. It's three-dimensional.

We saw a program about time travel. Can you do it? Wouldn't it be fun to travel? Listen. Get into the Word of God.

You can do all the time travel you want. You can travel into the past. You can watch Abraham and Isaac and Joseph and Daniel and Moses and Joshua.

Travel into the future. See the Lord Jesus Christ. Whip in the enemies.

See the Gog Magog rebellion. See the times of trouble. See the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

See the eternal realms of glory. Find out what happens with the angels in the future. You can time travel all over the place in the Word of God.

And this is real. So, anticipation. If we ever find our interest, our joy in the Word of God flagging, the way to cure it is to stop and think, Where am I going? Don't think about the present.

Don't go to the Word of God thinking, I need a quick band-aid for my current problem. Take the longer view. Hope.

You turned from idols, which is a way to get by in the present, lucky charms, make a prayer to the idol, and you'll have good luck. You turned from that to serve the living God, to wait for His Son from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ who delivers us from the wrath to come. Anticipation.

Let's pause here and take our break. We'll pick up at chapter 2, verse 1.