

More books of the New Testament were written by the Apostle Paul than by any other writer. The first letter that Paul wrote would seem to have been I Thessalonians. He begins this letter with a word of praise for the people in Thessalonica who had become Christians through his preaching. It is very interesting to notice that he designates their activities under two heads. He says, ". . . ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (I Thessalonians 1:9-10). Thus Paul, at this early point in his ministry, considers the second coming of Christ as occupying a great place in the life and thinking of his followers. Each of the five chapters in this epistle has one or more verses about the return of Christ. The whole latter section of the fourth chapter is devoted to describing a very important aspect of this return which we shall discuss in our next chapter. Paul ends this letter with the prayer that "your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23).

Paul's next letter, II Thessalonians, also has much to say about the return of Christ.

In his other epistles Paul often touched upon this theme. Thus in I Corinthians he spoke of the Corinthians as "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:7-8). In Chapter 11 where Paul discussed one of the most important services of the Christian church, the Lord's Supper, he wrote: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (I Corinthians 11:26). In his epistle to the Philippians he said: "For