

## **Anticipating the Coming of the Lord**

### **The Love of God**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

1. **God Has Loved You** (v.16a)

Before God created the world He had already chosen who He would bless and who would stand holy and blameless before Him (Eph. 1:1-6). He chose to save us because of His kindness and His love (Eph. 1:4-5; 1 John 4:10). He chose to save everyone who would one day believe in Him even though we were all spiritually dead rebels when He made us alive in Him (Eph. 2:4-7; cf. Rom 5:8). The Lord's love for and desire to bless all who would believe in Him is so great that He came to seek us and to save us (John 3:16; 10:16; Luke 19:10). God chose to love, bless, and save every individual who would believe in Him even though we would continue to sin and fail Him regularly (1 John 2:1-2; cf. John 21:15-17).

2. **God Has Given You Eternal Comfort and Hope** (v.16b)

God has promised to give the joy and peace of eternal life with Him to all who believe in Him (2 Thess. 2:16b; cf. Titus 1:2). He has given us His Word so that we can have sufficient knowledge in order to believe in Christ and be saved (John 20:31) and so that we can be confident that He has saved us (1 John 5:13). He has given us His Spirit as a taste of the fullness of His blessing that we will receive (Eph. 1:13-14). Believers can live and serve Him at ease knowing that God has made peace with us (Rom. 5:1) and we are no longer under the threat of condemnation (Rom. 8:1).

3. **God Will Comfort and Strengthen You** (v.17)

The love which God has given to us and the promises of future our blessings with Him is to encourage us in our faithfulness and obedience to Him (2 Thess. 2:17). The life of faithfulness that Christians are to live is unsurprisingly hard and full of opposition (John 15:20; 1 Pet. 4:12). The more that we understand and experience His love, the more our actions will be controlled by it (2 Cor. 5:14). We can be confident that God will strengthen us in our work as we continually orient our lives around Him and the love which He has shown to us (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21).