

## Anticipating Christ's Return

"...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 1:10

The letters to the Thessalonians are the Advent epistles. The one theme that runs throughout the two letters like a golden thread and appears in every chapter in connection with some important and practical doctrine, is the blessed hope of the Lord's coming. So prominently did this subject occupy the preaching of Paul during his visit to Thessalonica, that when his enemies brought charges against him before the rulers of the city, they made this the point of their accusation, that "these that have turned the world upside down have come hither also...and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, one Jesus."<sup>1</sup>

The return of Christ, has both the element of "I can hardly wait for His return" (He is the object of my hope), and "dread." The return of Christ ensures accountability. Most Christians today embrace the former and reject the latter. There can be no accountability without fear. Those who wait are bound to live holy lives so as to be ready to meet Him. He does not say, "hope for everlasting salvation," but rather "wait for His Son," which is meant to motivate us in remembering that we must face our Judge who brings with Him wrath.

<sup>1</sup> Acts 17:6-7