

# That Blessed Hope

by Pastor Cornelius R. Stam

For believers in Christ, it would be the most blessed of all if this year turns out to be the year of our Lord's coming for His own. How long the present dispensation of grace will be prolonged we do not, and cannot, know. Even the Apostle Paul, who was commissioned to make known the glorious truth of the rapture of the Church, did not know. He never dreamed that God would linger in mercy for more than 1900 years, for in I Thes. 4:16-18 he says:

***“We who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall be caught up...”***

***1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV*** *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

Thus, instructed Bible-believers in every generation since his day have rightly been on the alert for their Lord to come for them, for they know that “the days are evil” and every hour is an hour of grace.

To the Philippians the Apostle wrote: “We look for the Savior,” to the Thessalonians: “[Ye]... wait for His [God’s] Son from heaven,” and to Titus he says that we should be “looking for that blessed hope, and the appearing in glory of ...our Savior, Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20; I Thes. 1:9,10; Tit. 2:11-13). (II Cor. 6: 1,2).

***Philippians 3:20 KJV*** *“For our conversation [life] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”*

***1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:9-10 KJV*** *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and*

*true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”*

**Titus 2:11-13 KJV** *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, {hath...: or, to all men, hath appeared} 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:1-2 KJV** *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia: 2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

And to the saved we say: “Buy up the time,” take advantage of every opportunity to win the lost to Christ, for “the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16) and the day of grace may soon be brought to a close.

**Ephesians 5:16 KJV** *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*