

Prophecy devo #17 – Why the Church will not go through the Tribulation

Reason #4: God has not appointed the church to wrath.

The New Testament is clear that believers are not appointed to wrath. In writing to the Thessalonian church Paul said, "...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven (the rapture)...even Jesus who delivers us from wrath to come" (I Thessalonians 1:9-10). "God has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:9). The last statement was made after Paul gave the most detailed account of the rapture found in the New Testament (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). In the overall context of I Thessalonians, the promises regarding the church not being appointed to wrath refer specifically to the wrath of the Tribulation. "Wrath" is mentioned 13 times in Revelation 6-19, which is the section that describes the Tribulation. The Tribulation is the day of the Lamb's wrath. Those who worship the beast will drink the wine of the wrath of God. God's wrath is described as a wine press. The bowl judgments, which are the seven last plagues, are the completion of God's wrath. These bowls of wrath will be poured out on the earth. God's wrath is fierce. Believers will not experience that wrath. Wrath isn't for the church. The wrath for our sins was poured out on Jesus who bore our sins on the cross. There is no wrath for the church. What is the church? It is the collective name for believers of this age. It is the body of Christ. Christ will not pour out His wrath on His own body. What is the church? It is the bride of Christ? Christ will not pour out His wrath on His own bride. What is the church? It is another name for New Testament saints (separated ones). Christ will not pour out His wrath on the saints. The wrath of God is for unrepentant rebellious sinners, not for those regenerated by the Spirit. God has appointed the church to grace, not to wrath.