

# Loving His Appearing

## *2 Timothy 4:1-8*

In the final chapter of Paul's last recorded epistle he wrote, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing" (*2 Tim. 4:8*). A remnant of believers were looking expectantly for the Messiah's first coming (*Luke 2:25,38*). Today there is a remnant of God's people who are eagerly looking for the Lord's Second Coming for His own (*John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18*).

There is a difference between expecting the Lord's coming and **loving** His appearing. One day in my youth, I got into some serious trouble. I can't recall what I did; I've learned to blot out unpleasant memories, but whatever it was, my mother caught me. Normally she would punish me on the spot, and because she loved me, she did not spare the rod. But on this day she said, "Your father is going to punish you when he gets home." That evening I was expecting my father's coming at any moment, but I was definitely not loving his appearing.

Paul referred to the Lord Jesus as "the righteous Judge." Thankfully, as believers, we will never face Christ as a condemnatory Judge (*Rom. 8:1; John 5:24*), because our judgment already took place at Calvary's Cross, where our Substitute bore the full penalty for all of our sins. Yet, as believers, we will stand before Christ, "the righteous Judge," at His Judgment Seat "that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (*2 Cor. 5:10*; see also *1 Cor. 3:11-15*). We are accountable before the Righteous One.

In spite of our past failures, may God enable us to finish the race well (*2 Tim. 4:7*) and hear His "well done" (*Matt. 25:21*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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