

## Look up, your redemption draws near!

A great boost in my embrace of Paul's exhortation to be *comforted* by the hope of the *rapture* (1 Thessalonians 4:18, 1 Cor 15:51) comes in the research by Ron Bigalke of **Eternal Ministries, Inc.**<sup>1</sup> He shares teaching that has been buried for centuries —going back as far as Tyndale, Cranmer, Beza and even the Geneva Bible. Bigalke presents *departure* (of the saints when they are gathered Home by Christ) as the accurate interpretation of *apostasia* in 2 Thess 2:3. *Apostasia* in this *context* does not accurately translate, "*falling away from truth*" (which is the correct interpretation in all other uses except the two cited here.) Instead, the inspired word used by Paul, translated as *departure*, teaches that the body of Christ is missing *prior* to the appearance of Antichrist. Paul uses the same *grammar* as he does in 2 Cor 12:7-9 for his request that a thorn be *taken away* or *removed*. An even more accurate word for this future event is that of *translation*. The saints will be spiritually translated in a “twinkling of an eye.” This supernatural event will not be visible on the earth. It is not Christ’s second coming 7 years later.

It is also important to make the distinction between *translation* and *resurrection*.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, even those in the grave who are joined with Christ and those living at the moment we are gathered Home will not be resurrected in the normal sense. They will be translated, changed. Their ‘coming out’ of the ground (or ocean) will not be known on earth. Also see “Rapture Not True” and “Strong Evidence or Strong Delusion” at [www.pprsinc.com](http://www.pprsinc.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Ron J. Bigalke, Jr., "Second Thessalonians 2 and the Rapture, Part I", *Midnight Call Magazine*, (Columbia, SC: Midnight Call, October, 2010), 27-32. This correction has been documented by other scholars also.

<sup>2</sup> “A translation is the assumption of an individual out of this world to heaven, while a resurrection is a raising up of a dead person in the spatio-temporal world to eternal life.” William Lane Craig, “Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?”, chapter 6, *Jesus Under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents the Historical Jesus*, p 166.