

Paul's Second Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 2:1-12

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 240 ~ AUGUST 11, 1996

TITLE:

“ THE MOST TERRIBLE DAY ”
AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

THEME:

2 Thessalonians 2:2

“Do not be shaken in mind or troubled... either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text vv. 2:1-12

Remember the television program...

“To Tell Truth”

“Will the Real **Andy Chris please stand up”**

Well, there's a day coming when it won't be Andy
Chris, But Anti-Christ

Paul's Purpose Teaching the Church at Thessalonica about Prophecy and the Lord's return was not get them to pull out their calendars to set a date for His coming, but to build up their character for the living - The living of the Christian Life!!!

By the way... Date-setters are always Up-setters

The Rapture of the Church is an Imminent Event !!!

THE THESSALONIAN'S SITUATION:

during one of the services there at Thessalonica, a utterance came forth from someone who had announced that (all of this hardship and all of this trouble that the church was going through was because they had entered into the tribulation period)

What is the Tribulation period (Great) ?

description here from Daniel, Matthew, rev.

**But God, through Paul,
had Promised Deliverance from it**

#1 God Has said so...

1 Thessalonians 1:10

we are to wait (without warning or notice - immanently) for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Luke 21:36

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

#2 the tribulation is reserved for the unrighteous

Isaiah 26:19-21

Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.:20 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.:21 For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.

**The Church was now confused
and feeling alone and abandoned...**

to calm their hearts and to still their nerves Paul explains to them that the rapture had not yet happened and also that the second coming could not have taken place because of some very obvious reasons that had to happen first

1.) The Rapture is Our Hope and Focus *vv. 1-2*

a) Paul Encouraged Them in the Promise *vv. 1-2*

Verse 1

Now, brethren, concerning **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him**, we ask you,

They Were Encouraged to Wait for the Suddenness of the Rapture

(((WHEN WE THINK NOT, AT THE LEAST OBVIOUS MOMENT)))

Romans 13:11

knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

HE REMINDS THEM OF THE RAPTURE DOCTRINE

1 Thessalonians. 4:16-18

For **the Lord Himself** (God, Jesus) will descend from heaven **#1** with a shout, **#2** with the voice of an archangel, and **#3** with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first**. Then **we** who are alive and remain..... We shall be **(caught up)** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.

* **Coming** GRK 3952 **parousia** (par-oo-see'-ah)
being near, the advent of or the prescience or appearing of someone

* **Gathering** GRK 1997 **episunagoge** (ep-ee-soon-ag-o-gay')
a complete collection; a Christian meeting for worship)

“I’M STILL WAITING TOO” - SAY’S PAUL

Verse 2

not to be soon **shaken** in mind or **troubled**, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though **the day of Christ (Lord)** had come.

- * **Shaken & Trouble GRK** means they were white knuckled about it
Scared beyond reason - or insane for fear "In Great Alarm"

The Day of the Lord vs. The Day of Christ

Philippians 2:16

holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in **the day of Christ** that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until **the day of Jesus Christ**;

But The Day of the Lord

Acts 2:20

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and **awesome day of the Lord**.

2 Peter 3:10

But **the day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night, (to the unprepared) in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Jesus said "I told you that there would be days like this"

- hails tones weighting 100 lbs. • Intense heat from the sun burning people
- great earthquakes, • stars falling from the sky. • Animal life going insane and • demonic manifestations appear around the world

God desires to forewarn us
are we willing to be forewarned ?

Satan's Plan was/is to frustrate their waiting...
to bring them to the place of despair
And to Lose Hope...

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be like, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 **And everyone who has this hope** in Him (((purifies himself)))

Jesus warned about the Idle believer
“if that servant begins to say in his heart....

All you have to do is to say to yourself...
“I think I’ve got time to play ‘goof’ a little

2.) Count Down to the Second Coming *vv. 3-5*

Verse 3

Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day** will not come unless.....
#1 **the falling away** comes first, and #2 the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

“the falling away”

is the word, apastasia which means “departure” from the faith or of the faith

does it mean that the church will depart, then the terrible day comes ? or does it mean that after the rapture, the false church will explode with attendees as they have rejected the truth ?

***** **Both are True** *****

Verse 4

who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Matthew 24:15

"Therefore when you see the `abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand).... :21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Jesus & The Disciples Considered this to be Common Knowledge

John 5:43

"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

Verse 5

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

3.) The Holy Spirit at Work Today

vv. 6-9

Verse 6

And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

Verse 7

For the mystery of lawlessness **is already at work**; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (The Midst or middle of)

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- :52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Verse 8

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Verse 9

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

- #1 Satan is the scorch of lawlessness/evil
- #2 Satan will gain a following of miracle seekers
- #3 Satan will unleash unusual deceptions
- #4 Satan seizes them once deceived

4.) The Unbelievers Worst Day

vv. 10-12

John 8:24

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Sin Separates Us from God - The Greatest of All
Sin is the greatest Sin of All

Is The Repeated Refusal to Accept His Offer

Matthew 12:31

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

Verse 10

and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Verse 11

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should **believe the lie**,

The Count Down

The church is now, currently in the earth and the Holy Spirit is at work in the church and with the church

the Holy Spirit, the Hinderer, is currently holding back the evil that could be.

Then the Holy Spirit will escort the Church up into the air to meet the Lord in the air

Then the Holy Spirit steps aside (after the rapture)

And only then can the antichrist be released upon the world

100% of all this will be academic for many of us in this sanctuary today..... but not all of you possibly.

Some of You are waiting to see if these things are true, if God is really real...

1 Thessalonians 5:3

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (deception)

Paul's point is, that the Day of the Lord cannot begin
while the church is still on the earth

Do You Recognize **Satan's Gospel** ?

Genesis 3:5

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God,
(it's the new age gospel. It's the gospel according to moroni)

YOU CAN RUN YOUR OWN LIFE

You can call the shots, you can do your own thing
Be the God of your life and those around you

Verse 12

that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The Bible Says

my spirit will not always strive (put up with) man

The Bible Says

He who is often rebuked and hardens heart will be taken away without deliverance

_____ **Personal Application Here** _____

- there is the Christ and there is the antichrist
- there is the direction of Christ and there is the direction of the antichrist
- there is the life lived for Christ or the life lived for the antichrist
- there are many antichrists (instead of Christ - to take His place - to act in His position)