

JESUS

IS COMING BACK



WK3: Stand While Waiting
04.21.24 | Pastor Randy

SERMON NOTES:

- The second letter was written within months of the first letter. It doesn't take long for the enemy to turn truth into a lie. Make sure you're believing truth, not receiving a lie.
 - False teachers proclaimed Paul's authority in declaring the Lord had already turned.
 - II Thessalonians 2:2
 - Truth sets free and increases faith while lies bring shackles and increases fear!
1. Steadfast in the Waiting (II Thessalonians 1)
 - a. Paul seeks to increase grace and peace (II Thessalonians 1:2)
 - b. It is possible to grow in faith and love in the midst of great troubles. The circumstances should not reduce steadfastness (II Thessalonians 1:3)
 - c. Looking for the return of Jesus provides resolve for His followers in the waiting. The steadfast waiting glorifies Jesus! (II Thessalonians 1:11-12)
 2. Strength in the Spirit (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)
 - a. The Spirit prophesies of a sign that must precede the return of Jesus (II Thessalonians 2:3-4)
 - b. The Spirit restrains the anti-christ until the proper time. All things are under God's control (II Thessalonians 2:6-7)
 - c. The Spirit removed leads to strong delusion. The Spirit allows truth to be received. Praise God for truth! (II Thessalonians 2:11-12)
 3. Stand Firm in Faith (II Thessalonians 2:13-17)
 - a. Stand in the truth that you are saved through Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit (II Thessalonians 2:13)
 - b. Stand in the traditions (truth proven in the past and not ideas presented without support) (II Thessalonians 2:15)
 - c. Stand in the provisions of Jesus: love, comfort, hope, grace, good works and word (II Thessalonians 2:16-17)
- Does the return of Jesus bring you joy or do you fear seeing Him?
 - Do trials and troubles cause you to fall or does the example of Jesus strengthen you during the suffering?
 - Jesus is coming back! Saints rejoice, sinners repent!

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GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read II Thessalonians 1; Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19. How does the vengeance of God bring comfort to believers and condemnation to the unbelievers? Christians often view suffering as God's punishment but Paul presents it as His purifying His children. What truths from this passage bring light to our current trials. How does this relate to John 16:33?
2. Read II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Mark 13; Matthew 24; Daniel 7-12. Notice the phrases: man of lawlessness, son of destruction, takes his seat in the temple of God, he who now restrains, strong delusion. How do these terms relate to the great tribulation and return of Jesus? The rebellion must precede the return. Now read Revelation 13. How does the anti-christ (beast from the sea) try to replicate the actions of Jesus?
3. Read II Thessalonians 2:13-17; Mark 7:1-23. Much is made today about traditions. People often fight over traditions, rather than the truth of God. Jesus in Mark 7 calls the Pharisees out for valuing traditions over God's truth. What are some traditions that Christians hold to today that trump priority over God's truth? Notice what Paul says in verse 15, traditions taught by us, by our spoken word, or our letter. Remember how Paul began this chapter that people were being deceived by visions and words of people they didn't know over the truth Paul presented. May our commitment be to Scriptural truth rather than simple tradition.
4. Write out your understanding of what will take place before the return of Jesus at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation. How will sinners and saints be affected? How will the anti-christ deceive the whole world? How can believers be encouraged when the sufferings increase?