

THE DAY OF CHRIST
Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Date: 2020-11-01

INTRO: I had planned this message several weeks ago and then missed church one Sunday. I seek to remind us at least once a year of the imminent catching up of the Church. Things are moving so fast today it is hard to keep up. We turn this morning to 2 Thessalonians 2. The Apostle Paul had established the Church at Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. And now, some time later he hears certain concerns regarding these believers. He addresses a few of those concerns in both 1 and 2 Thessalonians. What is clear is that Paul has taught the Thessalonians quite a lot about the return of Christ.

In 1 Thessalonians 1 Paul speaks of how highly other churches have spoken about the Thessalonian believers. Look at 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10:

9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The wrath to come, as I understand it, refers to the tribulation time. And Paul had taught that the believer is delivered from this wrath.

In 1 Thessalonians 5 he had encouraged them not to fall asleep, but to be awake because the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. He warns that when they say peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them. He likens falling asleep spiritually as a Christian to being drunk physically. And then he tells them that God did not appoint the believer to wrath, but to obtain salvation. That wrath, as I see it, again speaks of the tribulation time that is coming.

And now, in 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul addresses a concern regarding the day of Christ. Paul speaks a number of times in his letters of the day of Christ. The day of Christ, in my understanding, is the time from when the catching up of the Church takes place, until Christ comes back to earth with the Church as is described in Revelation 19.

This morning we are only looking at 2 Thessalonians 2:1-6.

I. THE CONCERN REGARDING THE DAY OF CHRIST (1-2)

In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, Paul raises a concern he wants to deal with. The concern is regarding the day of Christ. So we begin by reading verses 1-2:

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

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 had come.

Notice first that verse 1 speaks clearly of the rapture, or the catching up. It says:

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him..

The Lord comes, and we are gathered to Him. This does not describe Christ's coming to earth to set up His kingdom on earth. Now note verse 2:

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 had come.

Somehow the devil had been able to violently shake them up. Their minds were in a turmoil. What they had been informed of in some way was that the day of Christ had come already. Let me just mention that modern versions read "day of the Lord" instead of "day of Christ." I hold to the majority text and take this as referring to the day of Christ. The day of Christ is spoken of 7 times in the NT by the Apostle Paul.

There are three great days spoken of in the NT. The day of the Lord, the day of God, and the day of Jesus Christ. They all refer to different time periods and we are looking only at the day of Christ. The day of Christ is only ever spoken of in a positive light. In my understanding the day of Christ refers to the seven years He spends in heaven with His new bride, the Church.

Here is what will happen. Two time periods will be running at the same time. While Christ spends His wedding time in heaven with the Church, which is the day of Christ; on earth, at the same time the tribulation time will be

running its course. The time of the Church is over, and God will now begin to fulfill all the prophecies related to the day of the Lord. What is especially in view now is the 70th week of Daniel, and it has to do with the Jew and Jerusalem according to Daniel 9.

In verse 2 we find that the Thessalonians had been violently shaken up by some new information. What was it that had troubled and violently shaken up the Thessalonian believers? Paul had taught them that Christ would come and take believers to be with Him for the Day of Christ before the tribulation happened, and now they were being informed that the day of Christ was already in progress. That would mean they had missed out on the catching up! For us, that would be like waking up one day and finding most of one's Christian's friends gone, and understanding one had missed the catching up!

Notice the words in the end of verse 2, "...as though the day of Christ had come." The word "had come" is a verb in the perfect tense. The perfect tense involves a present state which has resulted from a past action. The idea is that the day of Christ has come and is now presently in progress and the Thessalonian Christians are still on earth!

Now this false teaching had come in one of three ways: by spirit, by word, or by letter. By word would mean that somebody came and taught them. By letter is clear enough. Someone had sent a letter and told them the day was already in progress. And the letter might have been signed as having been written by Paul. Now, what is meant that they might have gotten this information by spirit is more difficult. Did someone claim they got this information from some spirit? Or does Paul mean that some evil spirit impressed someone that this was the way it was? We do not know. However they got the information, they were told the day of Christ was already in progress and that would mean is that the Thessalonians had missed out. They had been left behind and they were violently shaken up.

II. THE CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE DAY OF CHRIST (3-5)

Now that would be shocking news for anyone. Paul has heard about this misinformation and now in his second letter to

them he clarifies to them how this could not be true. So we go to verses 3-5:

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

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

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

Paul now tells them to not let anyone deceive them. The information they had gotten was deceptive information. And Paul says there are two things by which they can know that what they have been told is not true.

So Paul tells them first that the day of Christ will not begin until the falling away has taken place. And here is the question before us now: What is meant by the falling away? There are two views. The majority hold that it refers to a falling away from the faith, a great apostasy. The idea is that Christians will fall away from the faith in great numbers.

The second view is that it actually speaks of the rapture, the catching up. I have taught through this book a number of times and I used to say that those who hold the view that this speaks of the rapture, are somewhat forcefully bending the Scriptures to support their view. Now let me challenge you to something: See if you can find any clear references to a great apostasy before the rapture. Second, if the falling away has to come first, then the rapture cannot happen until the apostasy has happened.

I later came to the view that this falling away refers to the catching up of the Church, not an apostasy. Let me quote from some Bible studies I did that some of you might remember, and I will give a lengthy quote:

"The Greek word here is *apostasia* and it is used only twice in the NT, here and in Acts 21:21. In Acts 21:21 it is to forsake, to defect.

"There is a view set forth by some, using Strong's concordance that the word *apostasy* speaks of the rapture. The word *apostasia* is Strong's # 646. This number says it comes from 647, which in turn comes from 868, of which Strong says may mean to depart. Conclusion? That day will not come unless the departure of the church happens first.

"Now I have long taught that as far as I can see, that is a somewhat forced interpretation, seeking to make it mean what those people want it to mean. It would greatly simplify the passage, but seems a bit forced.

"Then I read an article by Thomas Ice in *The Midnight Call* who believes there is a greater than 50% chance that this is the meaning of this word. Well, after reading his article and considering the evidence given, I would have to say I now believe this view has the most evidence. So let us look at the evidence that this word more likely speaks of the rapture than of the apostasy.

"-My difficulty with the word *apostasia* was that it was used only twice in Scripture, here and in Acts 21:21. In Acts 21 it speaks of forsaking Moses' teachings, an apostasy. But what I had never considered or discovered is that the verb form of this word, from which it actually comes as well; is used 15 times in the NT (See Luke 2:37, which departed not; 4:13, he departed from him; 8:13, fall away; 13:27, depart from me; Acts 5:37 drew away; 38, refrain from these men; 12:10, the angel departed; 15:38, who departed; 19:9, he departed; 22:29, they departed; 2 Cor. 12:8, might depart; 1 Tim. 4:1, some shall depart; 6:5, from such withdraw; 2 Thess. 2:19, they departed from him; Heb. 3:12, in departing from the living God.)

"In every place where the verb is used and where the noun is used it could be translated 'to depart' (verb) or a 'departure' (noun). So the translation would most consistently read in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 'the departure' not 'the apostasy.'

"-Furthermore, in the text it says, 'THE departure' or 'THE apostasy.' The article points to some definite event. The best explanation for the use of the article in this text is that it points to something already mentioned earlier. But no apostasy is mentioned at all in either 1 or 2

Thessalonians. However, the departure, or the rapture is mentioned in 1 and 2 Thessalonians and most recently in 2 Thessalonians 2:1. So viewing this word as the rapture is most consistent with the word used and the article used.

"-Translation history also stands in favor of this view. I quote from Thomas Ice's article: "The first seven English translations of apostasia all rendered the noun as either a 'departure' or 'departing.' They are as follows: Wycliffe Bible (1384); Tyndale Bible (1526); Coverdale Bible (1539); Breeches Bible (1576); Beza Bible (1583); Geneva Bible (1608). This supports the notion that the word truly means 'departure.' In fact, Jerome's Latin translation known as the Vulgate from around the time of A.D. 400 renders apostasia with the word discessio, meaning 'departure.' Why was the King James Version the first to depart from this established translation of 'departure'?" end quote.

In other words, Paul is saying, "Listen, I told you this when I was there with you (verse 5). The Lord will catch up the believers before the day of Christ begins. How did you fall for this information you were given? You know that the catching up has not happened yet, so the day of Christ could not have begun yet. This departure must happen first."

And then back in our verse he gives a second reason why the day of Christ could not have begun yet and that is that the man of sin has not been revealed yet. The man of sin is the antichrist and we'll talk more about him later. So the day of Christ will not begin before the rapture happens or before the antichrist is revealed. And that raises this question: Does the antichrist have to be revealed before the rapture happens? Does that not destroy imminency?

It is clear in the NT that the rapture is imminent. No one knows the day or hour of Christ's return. We are to be constantly on the alert. We are not to sleep as do others. We are to be sober at all times because Christ could come at any time. So what is meant here then that the day of Christ cannot come until the rapture has happened and the antichrist is revealed?

Let me recommend this order of events: First, suddenly, all unexpected, when life is as usual, Christ catches up all true believers. They meet Him in the air (1 Thess. 4:13-18). Then they are transported to heaven. With the catching up, the world is thrown into turmoil. Hundreds of thousands of people are gone. There is no explanation. They have vanished. By the way, a catching up is not new to Scripture. Elijah was caught up alive. Christ was caught up alive. The two witnesses in Revelation will be caught up alive.

The second thing that has to happen before the day of Christ begins is the man of sin, the antichrist must be revealed. It is well possible that the catching up of the Church will lead to the revealing of the man of sin. It is well possible that a man will stand up and answer to almost everyone's satisfaction what has happened. And he will be hailed as the world's superhero! And possibly after some time, he is recognized as a man above all people who have been up to that time and he is set up as the world leader.

And when he is set up as leader, all those who have been raptured have been judged and rewarded, and the day of Christ will begin at the same time as the tribulation begins on earth. You see, the tribulation will begin as a time of peace. The book of revelation gives us the four horsemen of the apocalypse and the first one is white, speaking of peace. On earth it will be a time when the peace, that man is so desperately seeking to achieve today, will finally be achieved. The antichrist will confirm a covenant with Israel, and for the first time in man's history it will look like peace has finally been achieved. Well, if you study the four horses you will find the second one is red and they only get worse.

So here is the picture: The rapture happens. In heaven things are being prepared for the Day of Christ to begin. On earth, the antichrist is being revealed and in time he takes over as world leader. Then the day of Christ and the tribulation begin, and the time period for both those events is 7 years.

So look at verse 3 once more. Paul now gives a brief description of the antichrist. He is called the man of sin.

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

The first description we have of him is that he is the son of perdition. The word is *apolliea*. The basic idea is that of the son of destruction. Turn to Revelation 9 for a fearful description of an event in the tribulation. The bottomless pit, hell, is opened and smoke and locusts come out. No doubt we have demons. Let me just read verses 6-12:

6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

The name of this king, which is Satan, is Abaddon in Hebrew, meaning the destroyer. The name in Greek is Apollyon, meaning the destroyer. And the antichrist is called the son of destruction. We might call him the son of the devil. He will look wonderful but he will horribly destroy.

Then notice in verse 4 in our passage regarding what he does:

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

Again I won't take time for much explanation, but in the middle of the seven years, the antichrist will set himself up in the Jewish temple as God. The Jewish temple will be able to be rebuilt because of the peace the antichrist makes. Today things are fast shaping up for this. And for 3 ½ years that will work, but then the antichrist will break his peace pact, and he will set himself up as God. And at that time the devil will be cast out of heaven, and he will enter the antichrist and indescribably horrible things will happen.

Paul then says in verse 5:

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

What has happened is the Thessalonians have been greatly discouraged. No doubt it was a ploy of the devil. And in a way Paul is giving a slight reprimand here because they fell for something that they should have known could not be true. They should have known that the Day of Christ could not have come yet.

III. THE RESTRAINT UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST (6-9)

We want to take a look now at that which restrain the powers of darkness until the day of Christ. When the day of Christ happens, the saying, "all hell will break loose" will be literally true. So until then, there is a restraining power in the world. So we begin with verse 6:

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

All through the ages there has been a restraining power on earth. The devil has had an almost free reign over the majority of mankind for most of the time. But at all times there has been a restraining power on earth and the devil has fought it in every form. At the time of the flood, if it had not been for one family, he might have taken all of mankind. But there was one family that was a restraining influence.

Throughout much of the time of the OT, God used Israel. And they too, fell under the powerful influence of the devil time after time. But God always had a remnant. And when Israel too failed God, God set up the Church. And now the

Gospel message has spread from a few people through the entire earth. And even still today, the Lord's message is going forth all over the world. Our own messages have gone into 157 countries of the world.

But note in our verse that Paul says, "And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time." There is something Paul has revealed in this passage that is withholding Satan from being able to bring the man of sin on the scene at this present time. And Paul says, "You now know what that is." Well, what has he taught them in this passage that now tells them what is restraining the evil one from being revealed?

Here is the picture I get from our passage: Satan is straining at the bit to bring in the antichrist. He only needs the right conditions to bring this about, but there is some restraining influence that stands in his way. And what is it that stands in his way?

Notice the order of events in verse 3:

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,

If the falling away is actually the departure of the Church, the gathering of the Church to Christ at his coming, this departure will give the devil the opportunity to bring in the antichrist. I have no doubt that it is the Church of Jesus Christ that restrains the bringing in of the antichrist. As long as the Church remains, Satan is hindered from doing his destructive work the way he wants to. So there is the ever present work of Satan to destroy the Church! We see a massive thrust against the Church today, both from within and from without. There is enough happening today to discourage Christians. This corona virus is being used by the devil to discourage the Church, when it should drive the Church to repentance.

Are you a true believer? Then live right. It is righteousness in people that Satan cannot overcome. This righteousness is a mighty force. No matter how useless you might feel, if you live right, you are a power against Satan! When God wanted to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah Abraham pled with God for his nephew's sake, who lived

there. And he asked if God would destroy the righteous with the wicked. He said, "If there are 50 righteous, would you destroy it?" And God said, "Oh no, never." So it was clear there were less than 50. And Abraham began to bargain with God and finally he came down to just 10 righteous people. And God said, "No, I wouldn't destroy those cities if there were 10 righteous people."

Righteousness is a powerful thing. Very little, if anything, will thwart Satan like righteousness, and very little will he attack more viciously. You understand that a very large number of those who profess to be believers are not, but those that are make up the true Church and that is where righteousness exists. It is the Church that keeps Satan from doing more than he is and he is doing all he can.

So Paul says,

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

But in spite of the fact that there is a powerful restraining influence in the world, there is also a very sinister influence at work, and it is working night and day to defeat God's work. Without question, those who are truly righteous are also those who are under severe attack. So verse 7 says:

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.

This sinister work is here called *the mystery of lawlessness*. Some of us are most familiar with the KJV phrase, the mystery of iniquity. The original word is *anomia*. I mentioned this word in our Romans 7 messages. *Anomia* is the word *law* negated with the *a*, and meaning without law or lawlessness.

Now since the word "lawlessness" modifies the word "mystery" there is something mysterious about lawlessness. A mystery is something to which the mouth is shut. That is, one doesn't know what it is unless one is initiated into the mystery. We have not been initiated into this mystery, and so we see the results, but we do not know how it brings about those results.

What is the mystery of lawlessness? In my understanding, the mystery of lawlessness is that thing which makes lawlessness succeed in its efforts. What is it in lawlessness that makes it work? Why does lawlessness thrive over lawfulness? That is the mystery. Lawlessness has been successful in all ages.

Listen to Psalm 37:

1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

These workers of iniquity are workers of injustice or unrighteousness. And why would one envy them? Well, they seem to violate all godliness and still they thrive. And why should one not envy them? Verse 2:

2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.

Take men like Herod in the NT, or Adolf Hitler, or Joseph Stalin and many others. Oh how they prospered. And in time verse 2 befell them. All three had a very horrible end and now burn in hell. Well, if one should not envy such men, what should one do? Well, you might read verse 3-10 and find that in the end there is nothing to envy in the unrighteous.

We live in a day when the mystery of lawlessness is in plain sight. Consider the Palestinians. Huge amounts of foreign aid pours into this country and they use it to pay terrorists or families of the terrorists who kill Jews, or to build tunnels to destroy Israel. Listen to what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanjahu said in a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, March 6, 2018:

"Raise your hands high if you agree with me that [Palestinian] President [Mahmoud] Abbas should stop paying terrorists to murder Jews. You know how much he pays? He pays about \$350 million a year to terrorists and their families. Each year. That's about a little less than 10 percent of the total Palestinian budget. That's an incredible number, he pays Hakim Awad, the terrorist who murdered this beautiful family of Ehud and Ruth Fogel and their three children and a 3-month-old baby girl, he pays Hakim Awad this murderer. Over the lifetime of this killer he will be receiving \$2 million. I have a message for

President Abbas. Stop paying terrorists! Because what message does this send to Palestinian children? It says murder Jews and get rich!"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/03/14/does-the-palestinian-authority-pay-350-million-a-year-to-terrorists-and-their-families/>

You talk about the mystery of lawlessness! First, why do the Palestinians even get money? Second, why would countries pay money to the Palestinians if they know it will be used to pay terrorists to kill Jews? Check out the Palestinians "Pay for Slay" budget online.

Palestinian Authority "Pay for Slay" Fact Sheet says in the introduction:

"The Palestinian Authority (PA) tells foreign audiences that they oppose terrorism, yet they pay generous rewards to Palestinians, and/or their families, who carry out bombings, stabbings and other attacks against innocents in Israel. This has been labeled the "Pay for Slay" program. This has included the terrorists, or their families, of those who have killed at least 69 American citizens. Because the U.S. provides aid to the PA, the U.S. is indirectly paying for this terrorism."

Under a section titled, "Pay for Slay Laws" it says: "According to 'Amended Palestinian Prisoners Law No. 19 (2004),' which are Palestinian laws passed in 2004 and amended in 2013, Palestinians and Israeli Arabs who are convicted by Israel of involvement in terror attacks in Israel - 'participation in the struggle against the occupation' - are entitled to monthly 'salaries' commencing with their arrest - and continuing for life for men who serve at least five years and women who serve at least two - along with additional cash grants for such things as tuition fees at government schools and universities, health insurance, and priority civil-service job placements upon their release. The PA law specifies that the financial support is for the 'fighting sector,' an 'integral part of the fabric of Arab Palestinian society.' Basically, the law dictates that the deadlier the terror attack, the richer the reward."

https://emetonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Pay4Slay_Fact-Sheet-FINAL.pdf

Well thankfully, the US, under Donald Trump cut all funding to the Palestinians.

Think through President Obama's peace deal with Iran. Trump said this in part in 2020,

"Iran's hostilities substantially increased after the foolish Iran nuclear deal was signed in 2013 and they were given \$150 billion, not to mention \$1.8 billion in cash. ... Then, Iran went on a terror spree, funded by the money from the deal and created hell in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Iraq. The missiles fired last night at us and our allies were paid for with the funds made available by the last administration."

<https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/477666-obama-should-apologize-for-shameful-cash-payment-to-iran>

You talk about the mystery of iniquity. Iran can chant "Death to America" and get millions, no billions of dollars from the same country they curse! They can burn American flags, and make money from the same country whose flags they burn. The mystery of lawlessness. How does this work?

Think of America wanting to pay medical expenses for those who are able to cheat their way into the country. Think of wanting to open the borders to let crooks and cheats and murderers in, and then pay their expenses! The mystery of iniquity, and much of this is supported by those who call themselves Christians!

Think of our own country and that of many others. They spend a lot of money to save a whale somewhere and abort thousands upon thousands of babies who fight for their lives only to be torn to pieces! Think of the unlawful "rights" of mothers, to do with their bodies as they wish. Think of our gender issues. When a man says he's a woman, you dare not take exception with him. No, it's against the law. You cannot talk young children out of horrible, horrible, life changing decisions. Teachers in classrooms are given more authority than parents. You talk about the mystery of iniquity.

And so verse 7 says:

7 *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;*

Well, today it is moving at a very fast rate. Verse 7 then goes on to say:

...only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

In verses 6 and 7 we have what the NKJV refers to as some restraining power. The word translated "to restrain" is *katecheo*. It has the idea of holding back. The translation "to restrain" is a good translation. Many ideas have been put forward regarding this restraining power. Many older commentaries think the "he who now restrains" refers to some restraints by civil powers.

It has been well noted that in verse 6 the neuter word is used for that which restrains and in verse 7 it uses the masculine. I won't take time for those, other than to say this. I believe in verse 6 the restraining power in the world is the work of the Holy Spirit in and through believers. The righteousness of true believers is a huge powerhouse for God in the world. Maybe you sometimes feel quite useless as a Christian. Let me encourage you with this: If you live righteously and deal with sin in your life, and live for the Lord as best you know how, you add to the power which exerts restraint in this world against evil. Every righteous life is of great significance in a family, in a local church, in the universal Church and in a country. Every righteous individual adds to this restraining power, this power that holds back the evil one.

Then in verse 7, the restrainer is described by the masculine gender. It is most interesting that in the original NT the article to a noun keeps the same gender as the noun. The word Spirit in the name Holy Spirit is neuter. But in John 15:26 and John 16:13-14, the word Spirit, referring to the Holy Spirit is modified by the masculine article. That is a grammatical error to keep the theology right, and the theology is that the Holy Spirit is a Person. That, I believe, is what we have in our verse, a reference to the Holy Spirit.

So what restrains evil in the world? I believe it is the work of the Holy Spirit through believers! Take the believers out, and the Restrainer has been removed as a

restraining power. The antichrist of our passage will be revealed in what is called "his time." When the Church is gone, it will be his time.

We have been amazed to watch our whole world changed in less than a year. Wait until the antichrist comes on the scene. In seven years this world will see the greatest changes ever to come in such a short time.

But let me say this as well. The Holy Spirit is only removed from earth in so far as His work in the Church is concerned. He is omnipresent and will still be here. And right on the heels of the revelation of the antichrist will be the rise of two witnesses, and the Holy Spirit will do an amazing work in the tribulation. Only this time it will not be with the Church, but with the Jew, with Israel!

CONCL: And to conclude, how should we live in light of all this? First, live right in everything. In doing so you are a part of the restraining force in the world. Live right in your home, in your church, in your workplace, and in your country. Second, watch, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Third, realize where we are with regard to end time prophecy. Then remember that no matter who you are, if you live righteously you will be a target of the enemy. He will fight you in your mind, maybe in your home, or job and any other place he finds a place to do his sinister work.

And then, do not leave reading the Bible and prayer. There are likely few places we find ourselves in a greater battle than prayer. And when it comes to united prayer as a group, the battle is multiplied and you can see this in almost every church.

We are living in the last of the last days, and we need to discipline ourselves to live the Christian life as fully as possible.

And last, when you see all these things begin to come pass, and that is what we see today, then lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh!