

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Have a Steadfast Hope in a Shaky World
SERMON REFERENCE:	2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, 2:1-12
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2176

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The stage is set for the drama of the ages.
 - i) But too many Christians today are troubled and unsettled because they are living with last-day hysteria.
- b) In one sense, the last days began when Jesus ascended.
 - i) From that moment to now, we've been living on the edge of eternity.
 - ii) Jesus could come back at any moment.
 - iii) As Christians, we are not to be upset, dismayed or jittery.
 - (1) We are to have a settled faith.
- c) Today's message will show us from the Word of God how to have a settled faith in a shaky world.
- d) 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

2) YOU NEED NOT BE DISMAYED (2 THESSALONIANS 1:7)

- a) These are dark days, but they are gloriously dark.
 - i) The darkest hour of the night is just before the dawn.
- b) Our hope is not in politics, sociology or science.
 - i) Our hope is a sure hope, and that is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) The Who of His coming:
 - i) 2 Thessalonians 1:7
 - (1) Today, His Lordship is veiled, ignored and repudiated, but it is going to be revealed.
 - (2) The word "revealed" in this passage means that it's going to be unveiled.
 - ii) People do not understand who Jesus is.
 - (1) They talk about the peasant from Galilee and the lowly Nazarene, but He is coming again as the Lord Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords to be glorified and admired.
 - iii) 2 Thessalonians 1:10
 - (1) When He came the first time, He was spat upon, lied about, ignored and crucified.
 - (2) When He comes again, He will be crowned and glorified.
 - (a) At that moment, there will be stark terror for those who do not know Him and have not trusted Him.
 - iv) 2 Thessalonians 1:8
 - (1) The Savior becomes the judge.
 - (a) God takes no delight in this, but He is a holy God and will punish sin.
- d) The when of His coming:
 - i) 2 Thessalonians 1:7
 - ii) We do not know the exact time of His coming because no one knows the day or the hour.
 - (1) Matthew 24:36

- iii) We do know there is a time that the Bible calls “when.”
 - (1) Jesus came the first time on time.
 - (a) He was born on time.
 - (b) He died on time.
 - (c) He rose on time.
 - (2) He’s coming back the second time on time.
 - (a) Our Lord is never ahead of time and never late.
- iv) Malachi 4:2
 - (1) The writer of Malachi is saying that the second coming of Jesus is like the sunrise.
 - (a) There are two things we know about a sunrise:
 - (i) We can’t hurry it up.
 - (ii) We can’t stop it.
- v) We don’t know when He is coming, but we know exactly that He is coming.
- e) The wonder of His coming:
 - i) 2 Thessalonians 1:10
 - (1) The word “admired” has the idea of “wonder.”
 - ii) We will wonder at His transforming and redeeming love.
 - (1) God has taken stubborn people, like we were and sometimes are, and transformed us.
 - (2) Those who hated God have been transformed by His love.
 - (3) Those of us living in ignorance and blindness have had our eyes opened.
 - (4) Those who had been demonized by the power of lust, drugs and immorality have been made pure.
 - (5) When we’re caught up to meet the Lord, we will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.
 - (a) We will see the saints in their glorified bodies.
 - (b) The Bible says that we will be like Him.
 - (i) He is perfect, and we will be perfect.
 - (ii) He is exalted, and we will be exalted.
 - (iii) He is Prophet, Priest and King; and we will be prophets, priests and kings.
 - (iv) He reigns, and we will reign with Him.
 - (c) Every vestige of sin will be removed.
 - iii) We will wonder at His saving grace.
 - (1) 2 Thessalonians 1:10
 - (a) It doesn’t say, “All those who did wonderful works.”
 - (b) It doesn’t say, “All of those who are handsome or educated.”
 - (c) We just put our faith where God has put our sins: upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (d) The saints are there because they believed in and trusted Jesus.
 - (2) Acts 16:31

- (3) If anybody anywhere anytime will come to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith, He will save them.
 - iv) We will wonder at His keeping power.
 - (1) 2 Thessalonians 1:10
 - (a) Not a one will be lost.
 - (b) The same God who saves you is the God who will keep you.
 - (2) This will be a homecoming.
 - f) The witness of His coming:
 - i) 2 Thessalonians 1:10
 - ii) The proof that we believe the second coming of Jesus Christ is that we are trying to bring souls to Christ.
 - iii) No matter how much money we may give to the church, how faithfully we attend, or how eloquently we may teach, if we are not trying to bring souls to Christ, then we are not right with God.
 - (1) Acts 1:8
 - (2) A Christian who doesn't witness is a contradiction in terms.
 - iv) One of the greatest privileges we have is to share the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - g) We need not be dismayed; God has everything under control.
- 3) YOU NEED NOT BE DECEIVED (2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-5)
- a) 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - i) The devil is a deceiver.
 - (1) He is a liar and the father of all lies.
 - (2) He had inspired a devilish deception in this passage of Scripture.
 - (a) Someone had signed Paul's name to a forged letter to deceive the church, claiming that the church was already in the Great Tribulation.
 - (i) They were claiming that the Christians had missed the rapture.
 - (b) Paul is correcting the church on this.
 - (i) In this passage in 2 Thessalonians, Paul is telling them the truth.
 - ii) Paul explains some things to the Thessalonians about the antichrist that is to come.
 - b) The Day of the Lord (the Great Tribulation) is not going to come until the antichrist appears.
 - i) He will be the epitome of evil.
 - ii) He is Satan's superman.
 - iii) He will counterfeit the work of God.
 - c) Like any criminal, the antichrist will have many aliases:
 - i) The man of sin
 - (1) 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - (2) This speaks of his character.
 - (3) He will be the personification of sin.
 - (4) History began with the sin of man, and it will end with the man of sin.

- (5) All of the evil in this world will be distilled in this one man.
- (6) Various Bible translations call him:
 - (a) The incarnation of wickedness.
 - (b) The champion of wickedness.
 - (c) Wickedness in human form.
- ii) The son of perdition
 - (1) 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - (2) The word “perdition” means “judgment.”
 - (a) It speaks of the judgment that surely awaits him.
 - (3) The only other person in the Bible that’s called the son of perdition is Judas.
 - (4) One translation describes the “son of perdition” as “the one who is doomed to destruction.”
- iii) The beast
 - (1) Revelation 13
 - (2) This speaks of his ferocity, his cruel and fierce and ferocious nature.
 - (a) He may have the face of an angel, but he has the heart of a beast.
- iv) The antichrist
 - (1) 1 John
 - (2) The prefix “anti” means “instead of” and “against.”
 - (3) He is against Christ and comes as a substitute for Christ.
 - (a) He is the counterfeit Christ.
 - (4) John 14:9
 - (a) In the same way that Jesus said, “He that hath seen me hath seen my Father,” the antichrist can say, “He that hath seen me hath seen my father.”
 - (i) The antichrist is of his father, the devil.
 - (5) Just as Jesus Christ was God in human flesh, the antichrist will be the devil in human flesh.
- d) Satan desires worship, and he is getting bolder in these days.
 - i) He will receive that worship through the antichrist.
 - ii) 2 Thessalonians 2:4
 - (1) The temple of God will be rebuilt in Jerusalem.
 - (a) The antichrist will make a covenant with Israel and help rebuild the temple in a period of approximately three-and-one-half years.
 - (b) The antichrist will enter into the temple, sit upon the throne and show himself that he is god.
 - iii) Matthew 24:15
- e) 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - i) It is possible that the antichrist may be alive and well but veiled and covered right now.
- f) Until the antichrist is revealed, there is a spirit working in the world that the Bible calls “the mystery of iniquity.”
 - i) 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

- (1) If the antichrist is alive today, then there is something that is holding him back and restraining him.
 - (a) The antichrist cannot come on the stage until the time that is set.
 - (b) The church is a restraint to the antichrist.
 - (i) The Holy Spirit inhabits the church.
 - (c) The church, inhabited by the Holy Spirit, will be taken out at the rapture.
 - (i) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- ii) The church is a restraint to the power of evil.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit inhabiting His people has Satan on a leash, and there are certain things that Satan would like to do that he cannot do.
 - (a) We find examples of this in the book of Job.
- iii) One of these days, the restraint will be gone when the church is taken out.
 - (1) Matthew 5:13-14
 - (a) We are salt and light.
 - (b) Salt preserves, and it also stings and irritates.
 - (i) One day, this preserving, stinging and irritating salt will be taken out.
 - (c) Light reveals and produces.
 - (i) One day, God's divine photosynthesis and revealing light will be taken out.
 - (2) When the restraint is gone, then the antichrist will have his way.
 - (a) This does not mean that the Holy Spirit will not be on the Earth.
 - (i) The Holy Spirit is everywhere; there is no place that God is not.
 - 1. But the restraining power of the Holy Spirit will stand aside.
- g) The antichrist will be the composite of evil.
 - i) His intellectual genius will be great, and his authority will be overpowering.
 - ii) His hatreds will be extraordinary.
 - iii) Men will be willing to die for him.
 - iv) Women will swoon at his feet.
 - v) Little children will speak his name with reverence.
 - vi) The whole world will wonder after the beast.
 - vii) He will control the world with commerce and ungodly miracles.
- h) 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
 - i) Don't ever plan on getting saved after the rapture.
 - (1) There will be some people saved after the rapture, but they will not be people who have sat in churches today and heard the Gospel preached.
 - ii) The opposite of truth is not error, but unrighteousness.
 - (1) This is when a person is presented with the truth, and then he thinks of his sin and decides that he doesn't want the truth but wants his sin.

- (2) With this sin will come the baggage of unbelief when the church is taken out.
 - (a) They will believe the lies of the antichrist.

- 4) YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED (2 THESSALONIANS 2:8)
 - a) 2 Thessalonians 2:8
 - i) This passage is talking about the Battle of Armageddon.
 - ii) “The spirit of his mouth” in this passage means “the breath of His mouth.”
 - (1) The same Jesus who spoke them into existence will speak them into oblivion.
 - b) The second coming of Jesus Christ will be in two stages:
 - i) He will come secretly for His church.
 - ii) He will come sovereignly with His church.
 - c) After the Lord comes in the mystery of the rapture, there will be a period of seven years in between the start of the Great Tribulation and when our Lord comes in the majesty of the revelation.
 - i) When He comes in the majesty of the revelation, it is then that the antichrist will be destroyed.
 - (1) It is then that 777 will take care of 666.
 - ii) It is then that the Lord Jesus, who suffered in shame, will come in glory.
 - iii) It is then that that Jesus, who came in the sinner’s place, will come to execute judgment upon those who refuse such love.
 - (1) He came the first time to seek and to save.
 - (a) He’s coming the second time in judgment.
 - (2) He came the first time in mercy.
 - (a) He’s coming the second time to take vengeance.
 - (3) He came the first time in humility.
 - (a) He’s coming the second time in incredible power.

- 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) What does this mean to us?
 - i) The intercession factor:
 - (1) We better begin to pray.
 - ii) The soul-winning factor:
 - (1) We need to share Jesus.
 - iii) The family preparation factor:
 - (1) We better get our children into the Word of God and help them understand what is happening in the world because the spirit of antichrist is already in the world.
 - (a) 2 Thessalonians 2:7
 - iv) The comfort factor:
 - (1) We should not be dismayed.
 - v) The hope factor:
 - (1) We have a hope that is steadfast and sure.

- (2) As Christians, we are the only ones who really understand what is happening in this day and age.
- b) If you want to be saved, the door to Jesus is already unlocked.
 - i) Quit trying to unlock the door and start trusting.
 - ii) Trust Jesus today.
 - c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16