**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Beginning of the End |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2:1-12 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1990 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The stage is set for the drama of the ages.
   2. The curtain is about to be pulled back on the end times.
   3. The drama is not fiction.
   4. Today’s message will highlight three tremendous truths concerning the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. we need not be disturbed
   1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7
      1. We do not need to go around with headline hysteria.
   2. Three categories of people in the world today:
      1. Those who are afraid.
      2. Those who do not know enough to be afraid.
      3. Those who know their Bibles.
         1. The message today will deal with this third group.
   3. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10
      1. The hope of this world is not politics, not government, not science, nor is it education.
      2. The only hope for this world is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
   4. The Who of His coming:
      1. The Lord Jesus is coming.
      2. Today, His Lordship is being covered, veiled and ignored.
         1. He came the first time as a lowly Nazarene; He is coming the second time as King of kings and Lord of lords.
         2. According to this passage in 2 Thessalonians, He will be glorified and admired in His saints.
            1. When He came the first time, He was ridiculed and spit upon.
      3. His Second Coming will be stark terror for His enemies; but a joyful thing for the sons and daughters of God.
         1. Revelation 22:20
   5. The when of His coming:
      1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7
      2. The Second Coming is not a matter of “if” but “when.”
      3. Though we do not know the day nor the hour when Jesus Christ will return, we do know that He is coming on time.
         1. Galatians 4:4
            1. Jesus was not one second ahead of time nor one second late.
      4. Malachi calls the Second Coming of Jesus Christ a sunrise.
         1. Malachi 4:2
            1. Just as we can’t hurry up a sunrise nor stop a sunrise, neither can we hurry up nor stop the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

One day Jesus is going to come.

* 1. The wonder of His coming:
     1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
        1. In the Greek, the word “glorified” in this passage has the idea of wonder, of awe.
     2. We will wonder at His transforming love.
        1. We will see in an instant, in a moment, all of the saints made like the Lord Jesus Christ.
        2. He is Prophet, Priest, and King; we will be prophet, priest, and king.
        3. He is perfect; we will be made perfect.
        4. Not one bit of sin will be left in those of us who have been saved through His blood and sacrifice.
        5. We will be made in the likeness of our Lord.
     3. We will wonder at His saving grace.
        1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
        2. It is only through His saving grace that we will be caught up in the rapture and transformed into His likeness and enjoy eternity with Him in Heaven.
     4. We will wonder at His keeping power.
        1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
           1. Not one of His children will be lost.
           2. When the Lord Jesus Christ saves us, He keeps us.
        2. It is the glory of our Shepherd that not one of His sheep is lost.
           1. John 10:29
  2. The witness of His coming:
     1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
     2. Paul was continually witnessing, telling others about His coming.
        1. It was the keynote, along with the cross, of the Paul’s preaching that the One who came is coming again.
     3. If we believe He is coming again, we should be telling others.
        1. The mark of whether or not we truly believe is that we get it in our hearts and become a soul-winner.
  3. Rather than worrying and wondering what the world is coming to, we need to rest in Who is coming to the world.

1. we should not be deceived
   1. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
      1. In this passage, Paul addressed a forged letter that someone had signed Paul’s name to it and had said in effect that the rapture had already taken place and they were now in The Day of the Lord.
         1. “The Day of the Lord” means “the tribulation.”
         2. These saints were shaken and troubled thinking that they had missed the rapture.
         3. Just as in Paul’s day, there are many today who try to deceive others.
         4. Paul tells the people what to look for with the Second Coming and reassures the saints to not be troubled and not to be deceived.
   2. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5
      1. Paul shares about the coming antichrist.
         1. The one called: the beast, the man of sin, the wicked one, the son of perdition, which means that judgment is coming for him.
         2. He explains that there must first come a falling away, or an apostasy, before the Second Coming.
         3. Paul then says that the antichrist will come.
            1. The antichrist is called the man of sin.

This man will be the epitome of evil.

In different Bible translations, the phrase “man of sin” is called “the man of lawlessness,” “the incarnation of wickedness,” or “wickedness in human form.”

There is coming upon this Earth a creature, a man, who will be the devil wearing human clothes.

* + - * 1. The antichrist is also called the son of perdition, meaning that judgment is coming for him
        2. Revelation 13
        3. “Anti” means “against” and “instead of.”

He is one who is coming against Christ.

He is coming as one who comes instead of Christ.

* + - * 1. The antichrist will be a counterfeit Christ.
        2. John 14:9

Jesus said that those who had seen Him had also seen the Father.

When the antichrist comes, he too can say that those who see him, have also seen his father, the devil.

He will be the devil incarnate.

* + - 1. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
         1. The antichrist will oppose God and exalt himself above God.
         2. The devil’s ambition is to be worshipped.

Isaiah 14:14

* + - * 1. This passage states that the devil will sit in the temple of God.

That means that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt.

* + - * 1. Zechariah 12:3
      1. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
         1. The word “revealed” here literally means that the antichrist is going to be unveiled, exposed, uncovered.
         2. If the rapture is very near, then that means that the antichrist is alive and well on planet Earth right now.
      2. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7
         1. Paul makes it clear that the spirit of the antichrist is in our world today.
         2. “To let” means “to restrain.”
         3. Paul tells us that there is a spirit in the world today called the mystery of iniquity.

Wickedness has always been working on the Earth.

We face organized, brilliant, invisible, tireless demon spirits called the mystery of iniquity.

* + - * 1. That evil is being restrained at this moment by the Holy Spirit.

Satan is on a leash.

He is not able to do everything that he wants to do, would do, could do, and will do one day.

He cannot yet have his way.

The Holy Spirit has a ministry to help the saints as well as to hinder Satan.

When the Rapture takes place and we are caught up to meet the Lord in the air, the Holy Spirit who lives in us will also be taken out of the way.

The church right now, filled with the Holy Spirit, is standing in Satan’s way.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

The devil would love to see the believers of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit taken out of the way because they are a hindrance to him.

When the church is removed, evil will engulf the world.

The church is salt and light.

Matthew 5:13-16

Salt purifies and preserves, but it also stings and irritates.

When the salt is taken out, then the putrification will begin.

When the light is taken out, then darkness will engulf the globe.

Once the church is removed, the Great Tribulation will begin.

* + - 1. We are not in the Great Tribulation yet.
         1. The tribulation takes place after the rapture of the church.
         2. This is when the man of sin will be revealed; the antichrist.
         3. We should praise God for the Holy Spirit.
      2. The antichrist will be the devil incarnate.
         1. His intellectual genius will be great.
         2. His authority will be overpowering.
         3. His hatreds will be extraordinary.
         4. His techniques will be superb.
         5. Men will be willing to die for him.
         6. Women will swoon at his feet.
         7. Children will sing his praises.
         8. He will come as a great world leader.
  1. The Great Tribulation will be a time of torture and terror, and there will be no escape.
     1. Those who do not receive the Lord Jesus in this day and age, will believe the lies of the antichrist.
     2. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

1. we will not be disappointed
   1. 2 Thessalonians 2:8
      1. This passage speaks of the Battle of Armageddon.
         1. “Wicked” is capitalized because it refers to a person.
         2. The battle will be fought and won with a word that comes from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. Two aspects of the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
      1. The Second Coming does not refer so much to a punctiliar period in time as much as it is a series of events.
      2. He is coming for His bride; the church.
         1. This coming is going to be sweet and secret.
            1. 2 Thessalonians 2:1
            2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
         2. In this coming, Jesus Christ is coming sweetly as a bridegroom.
      3. He is coming with His bride.
         1. After the tribulation, He is coming back to the Earth to rule and reign with His bride.
            1. He is coming back in glory and power.
         2. In this coming, He is coming back sovereignly as King.
   3. The Lord Jesus will destroy the Antichrist.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. When Jesus came the first time, He suffered in shame.
      1. When Jesus comes again, He is coming to reign in glory.
   2. When Jesus came the first time, they crowned Him with thorns.
      1. When He comes again, He will wear a crown of glory.
   3. When He came the first time, He came to die in the sinners place.
      1. When He comes again, He will execute judgment on the unsaved.
         1. He is both Savior and Judge.
            1. John 5:22
   4. When Jesus came the first time, He came to seek and to save that which is lost.
      1. Luke 19:10
      2. When He comes again, He is coming to take vengeance on those who do not obey God.
   5. When Jesus came the first time, He came in humility.
      1. When He comes again, He is coming in power and glory.
   6. When Jesus came the first time, He was rejected of men.
      1. When He comes again, every knee shall bow, even the knee of the unbeliever.
   7. Three lessons from this passage:
      1. We need not be disturbed.
      2. We must not be deceived.
      3. We will not be disappointed.
         1. Jesus Christ who came the first time is coming again.
            1. Acts 1:11
   8. These are not days to let up, shut up or back up until we are taken up.
      1. We should strive to go out as a growing Christian.
         1. To be a better Christian tomorrow than we are today.
      2. Even in the last days, we should be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
      3. Philippians 3:14
      4. Psalm 17:15
   9. The intercession factor.
      1. If we believe that Jesus Christ is coming again, we should be interceding in prayer for unsaved loved ones.
   10. The soul-winning factor.
       1. If we believe that Jesus Christ is coming again, we should be telling others about Him.
   11. The preparation factor.
       1. If we believe that Jesus Christ is coming again, we should be instilling Bible truths into our children.
   12. The comfort factor.
       1. If we believe that Jesus Christ is coming again, we should be able to thank God and say, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus*.”
   13. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   14. 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.
       1. Romans 3:23
       2. Romans 10:9-10
       3. Romans 10:13
       4. Acts 16:31
       5. John 3:16