**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Unfinished Story of Christmas |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Thessalonians 1:7-11 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2266 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The Jesus who came the first time is coming again.
      1. Christmas is not complete without the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
      2. The incarnation without the coronation would be like east without west.
   2. Christmas is wonderful, but the best is yet to come.
      1. The Christ of Christmas is coming again.
   3. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-11
      1. The Apostle Paul was speaking to some people who were living in chaotic times.
   4. The first coming of Jesus and His Second Coming are linked together.
      1. Luke 1:31-33
         1. This speaks not only of the Jesus who redeemed, but also of the Jesus who reigned.
         2. This speaks not only of the Jesus who came the first time, but of the Jesus who is coming the second time to sit upon the throne of His father David and to rule over the house of Jacob (this is the name for the Jews).
      2. The most glorious fact of the past is that Jesus came the first time.
      3. The most glorious fact of the future is that Jesus is coming again.
   5. The one sure hope of this jittery world is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
   6. How terrible life would be without the rapture, the Second Coming of Jesus and the resurrection!
      1. How terrible it would be if this were all there is to life, and then to just die and go into the ground.
      2. But this isn’t all there is.
      3. Jesus is coming again.
         1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
   7. There is going to be a glorious contrast.
      1. The first time He came, He came to die in the sinner’s place.
         1. When He comes again, He’s coming to execute judgment upon those who refuse such love.
      2. When He came the first time, He came as a messenger of love.
         1. When He comes again, He is coming in vengeance as a righteous judge.
      3. When He came the first time, He came in the greatest of humility.
         1. When He comes again, He’s coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.
      4. When He came the first time, He came as the lowly Nazarene.
         1. When He comes again, He’s coming as the one who will rule and reign over the universe.
      5. The first time, He was despised and rejected of men.
         1. The Scripture tells us He’s coming to be glorified and admired in all of them who believe.
      6. No longer a crown of thorns, but a diadem.
      7. Not a cradle of straw, but a crown of glory.
   8. In today’s message, we will focus on three specific things that will help us in this weary world in which we live.
2. you need not be disturbed (2 Thessalonians 1:7)
   1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7
      1. Be at ease.
      2. Quit your worry.
   2. If you’re troubled today, please know that it is not over yet.
      1. There is an unfinished story.
   3. This world is so dark, but it is gloriously dark because the darkest hour of the night is just before the sunrise.
      1. Our hope is not in politics.
      2. Our hope is not in sociology.
      3. Our hope is not in science.
      4. The only sure hope for this world is the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. Think of the “who” of His coming.
      1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7
      2. We’re not looking for some event in history.
         1. We’re looking for Jesus Christ to be revealed.
         2. When He’s revealed, He’s going to be revealed as the Lord Jesus.
      3. Today, He is despised, rejected and mocked.
         1. But He is coming as the Lord Jesus to be glorified and admired.
         2. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
      4. For those who are unsaved, His coming will strike terror in their hearts.
      5. But for those who are saved, His coming will be glorious.
      6. It is the Lord Jesus who is coming.
         1. Acts 1:11
   5. Think of the “when” of His coming.
      1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
         1. Not if, but “when” He comes.
         2. There are no ifs, ands or buts about it; Jesus Christ is coming again.
      2. The date of His coming is a time known to God alone.
         1. Matthew 24:36
         2. Anyone who sets a date for the Second Coming of Jesus commits blasphemy because the Bible forbids it.
      3. His coming is like the sunrise.
         1. Malachi 4:2
         2. You can’t hurry a sunrise, and you can’t stop it.
      4. One day, Jesus Christ will pull back the shades of night and pin them with a star, open the door of the morning and flood the world with the sunlight of His presence.
   6. Think of the “wonder” of His coming.
      1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
         1. The word “admired” here literally means “to be wondered at.”
            1. It has the idea of awe, wonder.
         2. When we see Jesus, we’re not going to see Him as a baby there in the straw.
         3. He will come to be glorified, and we will admire Him.
      2. We will wonder at His transforming love.
         1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
            1. The saints will be those who were stubborn, unbelieving, wicked people who were transformed, just like us.
         2. His saints are those who were once ignorant and blind and who stumbled in darkness, but who have now seen the light.
         3. They were once demonized by addictions and greed, and now they’re going to be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
         4. When we see the saints with Him, there won’t be one vestige of sin, not one spot on them.
         5. He’s going to be glorified with his saints.
      3. We will wonder at His amazing grace.
         1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
            1. It doesn’t say that He’s going to be glorified in all of those who gave much money to the church.
            2. It doesn’t say that He’s going to be glorified in all of those who lived impeccable lives or who were big shots.
            3. It says that He’s going to be glorified in all those who believe.
         2. How do you get to Heaven?
            1. Suppose God had said that anyone who wants to be saved, run around the block.

Some little children can’t run.

* + - * 1. Suppose God had said that anyone who wants to be saved, read a chapter in the Bible.

Some people can’t read.

* + - * 1. He is coming to be glorified in those who believe.
      1. If you want to be saved, you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, truly believe.
         1. This is not intellectual belief.
         2. This is the belief that trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ.
         3. When you put your faith where God put your sins (which is on the Lord Jesus), then that is amazing grace.

There is nothing you can do to earn it, buy it or deserve it.

* + - 1. Put your faith in Jesus, and He will save you and keep you saved.
      2. These saints got to be like Jesus because they believed on Him.
         1. Acts 16:31
      3. We will not go to Heaven by our own good works.
         1. Isaiah 64:6
      4. Put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
    1. We will wonder at His keeping power.
       1. 2 Thessalonians 1:10
          1. “All them that believe.”
          2. Not one is lost.
       2. Of those who put their faith in Jesus Christ, not one will perish.
       3. Also, in verse ten it says, “Because our testimony among you was believed in that day.”
          1. There is power in the Gospel.
          2. If you believe in this day, then you will be in that group of saints in that day.

You will be in that group because you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will never forsake you.

* + - * 1. What a privilege it is to share the amazing grace of our Lord with others.
  1. Don’t be troubled in these last days.
     1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7
     2. Jesus is coming again, that we can be sure of.

1. you need not be deceived (2 thessalonians 2:1-12)
   1. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
      1. “Our gathering together unto Him” speaks of the rapture.
      2. “The day of Christ” literally means the Great Tribulation.
         1. The day of Christ is a day of judgment that is coming to the world.
   2. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12
      1. “Letteth” in this passage means “restrains.”
      2. Paul was writing to the saints in Thessalonica, who were going through excruciatingly hard times.
      3. Someone had written a forged letter and signed Paul’s name to it.
         1. The letter was a lie, and it said that they were already in the Great Tribulation and had missed the rapture.
      4. Paul told them not to be deceived and that the letter was a lie.
         1. So, Paul has the truth and is declaring the truth.
   3. From the time that Jesus Christ came into this world, Satan has been moving against Him.
      1. Satan moved in the heart of Herod (who was a type of the antichrist) to destroy the little boy babies, hoping to destroy the Lord Jesus Christ.
      2. All through His earthly ministry, Satan tried to destroy the Lord Jesus.
   4. We now come to the last days when Satan will fling his final insult into the face of God.
      1. The final blasphemy will consummate in the antichrist.
      2. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
         1. “Falling away” means apostasy.
      3. The agent of blasphemy will be “the man of sin.”
         1. He is Satan’s counterfeit of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   5. The “man of sin” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 has many aliases.
      1. He is also called “the man of lawlessness.”
         1. He will not be subject to the law of God.
      2. Another translation gives it as, “The incarnation of wickedness.”
         1. Jesus was the incarnation of God.
      3. Another translation says, “The champion of wickedness.”
      4. Another translation gives it, “Wickedness in human form.”
         1. Jesus Christ was God in human form.
         2. There is coming in the last days one who is the devil in human form.
      5. Revelation 13:1
         1. The Apostle John called him “the beast.”
      6. In John’s epistles, he called the man of sin “the antichrist.”
         1. “Anti” means “against” and “instead of.”
            1. He will be against Christ and will show himself instead of the Lord Jesus.
   6. History began with the sin of man in the Garden of Eden.
      1. It will end with the man of sin.
         1. He will be the epitome of evil.
   7. The devil has always wanted worship.
      1. He wants to be like the Most High God.
         1. Isaiah 14:13-14
      2. At the end of the age (and we’re seeing so much of it today), Satan finally gains the worship on this Earth that he wants.
         1. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
            1. This passage tells us that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt.

In certain rabbinical circles today, there are discussions about when (not if) the temple will be rebuilt.

Three-and-a-half years after the rapture of the church, the temple can be erected.

* + - 1. This man of sin, the beast, will move into the temple and proclaim that he is God.
         1. Wicked blasphemies will come out of his heart and mind.
         2. The Bible calls this “the mystery of iniquity.”
  1. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7
     1. The word “withholdeth” here means “restrains.”
     2. The mystery of iniquity is already at work.
     3. “And ye know what withholdeth.”
        1. The “what” here is referring to the church.
        2. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is what is restraining Satan today.
           1. Matthew 5:13-14
           2. The church is the salt of the Earth and the light of the world.
        3. If you take the light and the salt out, corruption begins.
           1. Darkness can never overcome light.
     4. The “He who restrains” in this passage is the Holy Spirit who lives in the church.
        1. He is restraining antichrist, holding back antichrist.
     5. One day, the rapture will occur, and the church will be taken up and out of here.
        1. When the salt and light are taken out, the corruption will begin.
        2. When this happens, a floodgate of iniquity will come upon the Earth.
           1. Right now, Satan is on a leash and can only go so far.
           2. But then, he will be released, and demon spirits will infest this Earth and the Great Tribulation will take place.
  2. There are some people who believe that they can hear the Gospel today, and then they can get saved later after Jesus comes.
     1. This is not so.
     2. If you refuse Jesus Christ with your eyes wide open, then you will believe the antichrist.
        1. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11
           1. When you don’t receive the truth when it is preached or proclaimed, it is God’s righteous justice that you will believe a lie.
  3. The antichrist is coming.
     1. He will be the devil in the flesh.
     2. His intellectual genius will be great, and his authority overpowering.
     3. His hatred will be extraordinary.
     4. Men will be willing to die for him, and children will betray their parents for him.
     5. Those who reject the truth today will believe him because he will come with wonderous signs and lying wonders.

1. you need not be disappointed (2 thessalonians 2:13-14)
   1. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
   2. There are two aspects of the Lord’s coming:
      1. He’s coming secretly for His bride.
      2. He’s coming back with His bride.
         1. The Lord Jesus is coming sweetly like a bridegroom, and He’s coming sovereignly like a King.
   3. There was no room in the inn for Jesus the first time He came.
      1. When He comes again, He is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. The unfinished story of Christmas is that Jesus is coming again.
      1. What Paul is telling us is that when He comes, 777 will take care of 666.
      2. Our Lord Jesus shall reign.
   2. Jesus came the first Christmas to die in the sinner’s place.
   3. Jesus is coming the second Christmas to receive the sinner to Himself.
      1. Our faith looks backward to a crucified Savior.
      2. Our love looks upward to a crowned Savior.
      3. Our hope looks forward to a coming Savior.
   4. Are you ready for His Second Coming?
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. 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