

Edgemont Bible Church
Pastor Al Osden
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

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Intro:

IV. How to be ready for the End Times, Part I: Remember What You Know

A. Do Not Be Shaken - vs 1-2

1. This teaching is Pastoral in nature as Paul tries to clarify and comfort
 - a. to Correct error
 - b. to Give Joy, Hope, and Peace
 - c. Now, brethren,
2. we ask you - **erotao** – request, to plead, implore
 - a. instead of being authoritarian
 - b. corrects gently those overcome by this error
3. Confusion - concerning
 - a. the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him – 1 Th 4:13-18
 - i. Not two events, but one - only uses one article - the
 - ii. Sixth time mentioned in 2 letters – 1 Th 1:10; 2:19; 3:13;4:15; 5:23
 - iii. Focused on this event first b/c
 - the Thessalonians expected relief from their suffering – vs 7
 - instead were suffering severe persecution
 - making them think they had missed the Rapture
 - b. as though the day of Christ had come – 1 Th 5:1-11
 - i. If Paul had taught them that the rapture would come after the day of the Lord had started, they would have rejoiced knowing that they were getting close
 - ii. instead, they are confused thinking they are in the midst of the Day of the Lord
4. not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled
 - a. Shaken - **saleuo** - to waver, agitate, to rock, to topple
 - i. Describes
 - a reed blown about in the wind – Mt 11:7
 - the shaking of the powers of heaven in the end times – Mt 24:31
 - The shaking of the building when the Holy Spirit came – Acts 4:31
 - The shaking of the prison at Philippi – Acts 16:26

- the agitating of the people at Berea by unbelieving Jews –
Acts 17:3

i. **nous** – composure, mind,

ii. **Threo** – disturbed, trouble or frightened, only used here and Mt
24:6; Mk 13:7

b. whatever message that they were believing had all the marks of apostolic
authority

i. either by spirit – false teacher or prophetic utterance – 1 Jo 4:1-3

ii. or by word – sermon or teaching

iii. or by letter, - a written authority

iv. as if from us

B. Do Not Be Deceived - vs 3a

1. Deception leads to anxiety and fear

a. the church faces the constant threat of deception b/c

i. Satan is the angel of Light

ii. His servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness
2 Co 11:14-15

b. in order to not be deceived the church needs to be mature

i. No longer like children tossed to and fro from every wind of
Doctrine – Eph 4:14

ii. Be alert to

- those twisting the word – 2 Co 4:2

- those deceiving the hearts of the unsuspecting – Ro 16:18

iii. Knowing that as Christ returns draws near

- men will go from bad to worse – 2 Tim 3:13

- many deceivers have gone out into the world – 2 Jo 7

2. **exapatao** - to seduce wholly:--beguile, deceive completely

3. by any means – a double negative,

a. the Thessalonians should not have been confused with what Paul had
taught them, their confusion was based on emotion

b. truth is not determined by emotions or circumstances, but by Scripture

4. Deception has practical consequences which makes knowing the truth essential

a. such knowledge produces accountability

b. Peter exhorts his readers – 2 Pet 3:11,14

i. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of
persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

ii. looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

c. John says such knowledge produces purity for the one with such hope - 1 Jo 3:1-3

C. Do Not Be Forgetful - vs 3b-5

1. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things
 - a. the imperfect tense is used meaning repeated action in the past
 - b. teaching about end times was part of Paul continual teaching in the few short months that he was there making eschatology foundational, not unimportant
2. out of all the signs that Paul may have used, he singled out the apostasy
 - a. **Apostasia** – to revolt or rebel,
 - i. used one other time in NT – Acts 21:21 referring to forsaking the law of Moses
 - ii. Used 3 times in the Septuagint expressing rebellion against God – Josh 22:22; 2 Chron 29:19; Jer 2:19
 - b. Paul is not referring here to apostasy in the general sense
 - i. Apostasy as defection from Gospel truth is a constant problem
 - ii. It is a problem for
 - Churches – Rev 3:14-22
 - individuals – Heb 10:25-31; 2 Pet 2:20-22
3. This apostasy will happen first and is directly connected to
 - a. the man of sin being revealed
 - i. Man – not Satan, distinguished from him in vs 9
 - ii. Of sin – Anomia – without law
 - the consummate lawless one
 - in the end times, lawless will increase – Mt 24:12
 - this one will stand out as more so
 - iii. Revealed – aorist tense – a definite time when a man will appear
 - iv. the son of perdition
 - used of Judas in Jo 17:12
 - destruction – **apoleia** – ruin, not annihilation
 - Antichrist will lead the world into destruction – Rev 13:5-8
 - b. After posing as a friend of religion – Acts 17:13; antichrist reveals his true nature
 - i. who opposes and exalts himself
 - above all that is called God

- or that is worshiped – Rev 13:1-17

ii. so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God

- the abomination of desolation – Mt 24:15; Dan 9:27

- midpoint of the tribulation

c. When Christ returns, He will return in glory to destroy antichrist's kingdom and all the ungodly

i. He will cast the antichrist into the lake of fire – Rev 19:11-21

ii. Along with the false prophet

The only unmistakable event that proceeds the day of the Lord is the Apostasy following the self deification of the antichrist and desecration of the temple. Believers do not need to fear the judgment of that day. We are not in darkness that the day would overtake us. We are waiting for His return to take us to be with Him. We look for the true Christ, not the antichrist.