

SERMON NOTES

UNDAUNTED COURAGE: *Courage to Face the Future*
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul was not simply writing to correct false teaching (of course that was important). Paul's goal was to fortify and embolden the faithfulness of the Thessalonians. He did so by teaching them the truth concerning Christ's return. While a theologian, Paul is primarily writing as a pastor. He was concerned about the way false teaching had unsettled the faith of the church. As we seek to remain steadfast, it is important that we face the future standing firmly on the foundation of biblical truth.

Warren Wiersbe said,

“The second coming of Christ is more than a doctrine to examine and study; it is a truth to grip our lives and make us better Christians. It is not enough to know about His coming or to believe it; we must practice it in daily life.” [1]

Key thought: Biblical truth empowers you to face the future with courage.

FALSE TEACHING UNSETTLES, CONFUSES, AND CAUSES FEAR. (VS. 1-2)

- The danger of one's faith being “shaken”.

“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.” *Matthew 24:10-12* (NASB95)

- The source of their unsettling was false teaching concerning the “Day of the Lord”.

“Man of sin”, lawlessness – “All attempts to equate the man of lawlessness to a historical figure breaks down. Paul was speaking of someone who would appear only at the end of the age.” He will appear just before the Lord comes again.

KNOWING THE TRUTH, YOU CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH COURAGE. (VS. 3-12)

- A description of events (vs. 3-9)

Paul describes the sequence of events that must take place before the day of wrath and judgment comes upon the earth.

- The apostasy (v. 3)
- The man of lawlessness (vs. 3-4)

[1] Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 613). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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- The rebuilding of the temple (vs. 4-5)
- The “restrainer” is removed (v. 6)
- An explanation (vs. 10-12)

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB95)

Christians need not fear the future, fear is for...

- Those who are not saved (v. 10)
- Those who will face the judgment and wrath of God (v. 11)
- Those who love wickedness (v. 12)

Take Away:

- Before your faith is shaken, be sure you are standing on the truth.
- When your faith is shaken, always seek to know the truth.
- When your faith is shaken, always trust the Lord.