



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series
Supports Session 11: Observing
Sermon Title: Don't Miss the Big Picture!
Passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Connection to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

This message encourages believers to look beyond the immediate circumstances and events to God's sovereignty through the future coming of Christ.

Introduction/Opening

Ever watch a trick play in a sports game? It can be so much fun when done well, especially when an opponent is completely fooled by it! Perhaps the most well known trick play in baseball is the hidden-ball trick. This usually occurs when an infielder conceals the baseball instead of throwing it back to the pitcher, who pretends to catch the phantom ball. Then the infielder waits for the trap to work. The moment that the runner steps off base, he is immediately tagged with the hidden ball in the infielder's glove.

Trickery is fun when it's in the context of entertainment, but in daily life it's flat out dangerous. In fact, it can be deadly. And today, there's a lot of deception out there, especially when it comes to the return of Jesus. Believers must be diligent in knowing and recognizing the truth when it comes to the return of Jesus and the end of time.

Outline

1. Don't worry (vv. 1-2).
 - a. There has always been a great deal of curiosity and speculation about the future, much of it based on conjecture. Paul alluded to this in verse 2, but there is a warning here against having a reaction of fear to such speculation.
 - b. What must a believer do when they hear such things?
 - i. Test the spirits—Matthew 24:5; Hebrews 13:9a; 1 John 4:1-6
 - ii. Compare it to the Word—Acts 17:11; Romans 15:4; Ephesians 4:14
 - iii. Trust God's character—Romans 8:31-39; Titus 3:4-9
2. Don't be deceived (vv. 3-4).
 - a. Don't act as one who has no hope (v. 3a).
 - i. Paul's words in verse 3 summed up this thought: "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way."
 - ii. See Matthew 24:24; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 2:8.

- b. React as one who has hope (vv. 3b-4).
 - i. God is a God of order: first, the rebellion, then the events that follow.
 - ii. But for what purpose? To bring about the return of Jesus Christ, the completion of the kingdom, the new heaven and new earth.
- 3. Don't lose focus (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - a. Focus on God and His sovereignty (v. 18)
 - i. God has and always will be sovereign. He is over all events and has all authority.
 - ii. See 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Matthew 28:18.
 - iii. Additionally, all authority is given to Christ, as all creation was made through Him and for Him (Col. 1:15-16)
 - b. Focus on Christ and His gospel (vv. 19-20)
 - i. What should we do then? Share the gospel until He comes.
 - ii. Jesus's example: Acts 1:6-8
 - iii. Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7
 - iv. Matthew 28:19-20

Conclusion

Jesus is coming, but only the Father knows when. What does this mean for us? Be ready, be prepared, but be busy about sharing the gospel. Don't worry about what people say; don't be deceived about what people speculate on. Instead, focus on the big picture: to tell others about the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

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