

Sunday, June 7, 2020 with Mike Teel, Pastor
EASTER: *The Order of the Resurrection—THE END 2*

FOCAL PASSAGES:

I Corinthians 15:23-25 ...*But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* ²⁴ *Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.* ²⁵ *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 ¹³ *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.* ¹⁴ *For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.* ¹⁵ *According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.* ¹⁶ *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.* ¹⁷ *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.* ¹⁸ *Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE ARE . . .

1. RECALL THE RETURN

2. UNDERSTANDING _____

- To understand the book of Revelation, we must understand that it is divided into three parts.
- **Revelation 1:19** itemizes these parts commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ ...*"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.*

THE _____ EXPOSED

1. THE ARRIVAL OF THE _____

Revelations 6:2 ...*I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.*

- He will be given a crown (authority) that he did not have when he came.
- He will have a bow but no arrows.
- He will make great claims and people will follow him – thus becomes a world leader because he is able to deceive.
- **Revelation 6** also indicates that he will promise the very thing that people want: deliverance from terrible kind of war; inflation; famine or economic insecurity and health matters.
- Of course he will not be able to deliver on these promises.

2. ADDRESSING _____ AND THE _____

- The believers at the church in Thessalonica were fearful that the Rapture had occurred and they were going through the Tribulation period.
- There evidently were circulating false letters supposedly from Paul (Satan's Way)
- Now Paul had already told them in **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** they would not go through the tribulation.
- So Paul responds in **II Thessalonians 2:1-2** ...*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.*

a. PAUL SPEAKS TO THE _____

II Thessalonians 2:3 (NIV) ...Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

II Thessalonians 2:3 (KJV) ...Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- There are two major interpretations.
- Despite the disagreement, however, both interpretations indicate that the true church will not go through the tribulation.

b. THE GREAT _____

- Many believe that this “falling away first” refers to the rapture of the church.
- It could mean a physical departure, not necessarily a doctrinal falling away. If this is true, then it is obvious that the man of sin cannot be revealed until the falling away – rapture – comes.
- But suppose the “falling away” is referring to doctrinal apostasy?
- If the “falling away” refers to doctrinal apostasy, such apostasy will precede the revelation of the man of sin or the antichrist.

3. WHO IS THE _____ (Antichrist)?

II Thessalonians 2:4-7 ...He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

- Antichrist is already on the scene. He has probably begun to make a name for himself after the rapture of the church.
- Remember we talked about him being a person of great persuasion and begins to make many great promises he will never be able to fulfill. We look at this in **Revelation 6:2** ...I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.
- Now speaking of the man of sin, the son of perdition, man of lawlessness in **II Thessalonians 2:4 (KJV)** ...Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.
- What is holding back or keeping the man of sin from being revealed?
- Since the day of Pentecost and the entering into the Church age, every person born of God is baptized in the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our lives.
- It is the presence of believers on the earth that keeps the antichrist from being revealed or taking control.
- When the believers and the church is gone, Satan will have free reign to begin his final assault on all that is good and righteous.

LIVE IT OUT

- I am so glad I will not be here during the tribulation! Will you?

>The Bible tells us today is the day of salvation.

>Today is the day the Holy Spirit is working and calling you to come to Christ.

>Today the church is here to encourage and support you as you give your life to Christ.

>Today could be the day of the rapture of the church.

- Why would you want to take the chance of missing the rapture and going through the tribulation?