



Session 8: Clearing Up Confusion over Christ's Return

READ:

1 Thessalonians 3:1-10, 4:13-18, 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1, 2

CONNECT: The End of the World

If you could choose where you would be at the end of the world, where would you like to be and why?

WATCH: Clearing Up Confusion over Christ's Return

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

A. Conflict between False Prophets and Paul

In response to the problem of false teaching, what did Paul remind the Thessalonians to do?

What did Paul do in his second letter to the Thessalonians to assure them that it was not a forgery?

On what basis was the letter of 1 Thessalonians included in the New Testament?

“Paul was so thrilled with the way these folks received the word of God that was sent to them through _____” (Dr. Dan Hendley).

B. Content of False Teaching

We may surmise that the false prophets had a variety of misconceptions about what?

According to Dr. Robert A. Peterson, what is most important for believers to do?

C. Historical Position:

Four things that have to happen before Christ returns

1. Mystery of _____ Restrained

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9 Paul explicitly associated the mystery with _____.

Paul encouraged believers to view earthly conflicts as extensions of _____.

Where is the “restrainer” primarily active?

2. _____ or _____ has to occur

It seems best to understand this as equivalent to what John calls: _____.

3. Restrainer _____

Why did the Thessalonians not need to fear that they had missed Christ’s arrival?

4. Man of _____ Revealed

What will accompany his coming?

DISCUSS

- What is something that stood out to you from the video?
- Jesus’ teaching about the end times was clearly in Paul’s mind as he wrote to the Thessalonians. List some of the signs Jesus gave to his disciples in the following verses from Matthew 24 that will point to his coming and the end of this age:
 - vv. 9-10
 - vv. 11, 24
 - vv. 14
 - vv. 30-31
 - vv. 36, 42
- How are contemporary beliefs about the end of the world similar to and different from the historical perspective on Christ’s return as presented by Jesus and in the video?

- Paul instructed the Thessalonians to “test everything” they were taught. How do you decide if something you are reading or hearing is true or not?

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: Comfort and Encouragement

- Read the following verses and note what Paul does to encourage the persecuted and confused believers in Thessalonica:
 - 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:11-12
 - 1 Thess. 1:3, 7; 2 Thess. 1:4
 - 2 Thess. 1:5-10
 - 1 Thess. 3:1-3
 - 1 Thess. 4:13; 2 Thess. 2:1-3, 5
- What are some things Paul encourages the Thessalonians to do?
 - 1 Thess. 2:12
 - 1 Thess. 5:11
 - 2 Thess. 3:13

APPLY:

- How can what Jesus and Paul taught about the end of the world encourage your heart?
- What actions might Paul’s teaching about the end of the world encourage you to do now?
- Think of someone you know who needs their spirits lifted. Review what Paul did to encourage the Thessalonians. Considering this, what practical things could you do to encourage them this week?