

SERIES TITLE: FUTURE.ORG

SERMON TITLE: FWD FWD SPAM

TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 2

INTRODUCTION.

The believers who lived in the city of Thessalonica received two letters from the Apostle Paul. In his second letter, Paul addressed issues of increased persecution, and confusion over Christ's return. The new level of suffering caused the church to believe rumors that the end was near. As a result, some Christians were deciding not to work. Over the next three weeks, we will study Paul's answer, and learn how to organize life until Jesus returns.

DISCUSSION.

What kinds of rumors spread the fastest? What is the wildest or weirdest false story that you ever were told or forwarded?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1-2 What would be the motive for people to spread a message and claim it was from Paul?

How could Christians ever be involved in such a thing?

How would word that "the day of the Lord has already come" impact these believers?

Vv.3-4 Without speculating about who the "lawless one" could be, what will be true of him according to these verses?

How does 1 John 2:18-22 factor into this?

Vv.5-8 Who/what do you think the restraining force is and why?

How much of a difference does it make?

Because the lawless one can be restrained, what does this tell us about his power?

Vv.9-10 How does everything that Paul describes match with Jesus' words in Mark 13?

Does this seem to refer to the same time period? Why or why not?

What is God's ultimate purpose in allowing the "man of lawlessness" to deceive people?

Vv.11-12 How does the "powerful delusion" sent by God differ from the deception of the lawless one?

Vv.13-15 How and why will God save his people?

What does it mean to "hold to the traditions"?

APPLICATION.

- What is your reaction to this teaching on the return of Jesus? And how would Paul have wanted God's people to feel about it?
- What is the danger of too much speculation about end times scenarios, personalities, and dates?
- What encouragement do you find in these verses?
- Think about some difficult issues you are faced with right now or have struggled through in the past. How can the teaching in this chapter be applied to any of those issues?
- Use vv.16-17 as a prayer for others this week.
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?