

2 Thessalonians 2

Jesus

- **Bibles**
- **Chapter 1**
 1. **Persecution** of New Believers
 2. **Judgment** on their enemies
 3. **Exhortation** to walk worthy of their calling: **To see Jesus' face to face...**

I. Day of the Lord Prerequisites

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him

- **Coming of Jesus to Earth** Day of the Lord End of Trib
- **Gathering of Saints to Heaven** Rapture of Church Beginning of Trib

... we ask you, **2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ [the Lord] had come.**

A letter was written to Thessalonians by someone claiming to be Paul:
We are in the Great Tribulation

- **Paul's response:** It's not true. Don't let it shake you up/bring you down...

It is important to notice that the Thessalonians would be shaken or troubled by the thought of being in the Great Tribulation **only if they had been taught by Paul** that they would **escape that period through the rapture**. Otherwise, they would, in a sense, welcome the Great Tribulation as a necessary prelude to the Second Coming. But Paul had clearly taught them that they would **escape God's judgment** on this earth during the period known as the day of the Lord or the day of Christ [Guzik]

- **Shaken/Suddenly Jolted...What just happened?**
 1. **Spirit:** Thoughts planted by enemy against Word of God
 2. **Word:** Chatter heard from pawns of enemy twisting Word
 3. **Letter:** Written/Tract by false-teachers contradicting Word
 4. **Internet...**Neo-Tower of Babel

Ephesians 2:2b [Satan] ...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience

Get off the Internet/Into your Bible...or be Deceived

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits** and doctrines of demons, **speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...**

1 Peter 5:8 [This isn't a game] Be **sober** [circumspect], be **vigilant** [awake]; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour.**

We are being bombarded by non-stop deception...Stay in the Word

Harm of allowing ourselves to be deceived? Cant be overstated. Generational Damnation

- Thessalonians susceptible to being deceived...
 1. **New Believers**
 2. **Excited about end times:** Easily twisted as not happened yet
 3. **Persecution heating up:** Trials/Tribulations were mounting

Great time for someone to lie about the Great Tribulation having begun

Q: If we are in the Trib... Why did Paul say we would be Raptured/Delivered from wrath?

- **E-mail during Covid:** Prepare people not to take the Mark of the Beast
- **Read your Bible:** Prerequisites to Mark of Beast in Rev 13
 1. False resurrection of AC
 2. Great signs by AC and FP
 3. Image of AC promoted by FP
 4. Temple built/2 Witnesses killed/rise etc., before Ch. 13

IOW's Covid Vaccine cannot be Mark [precursor yes] We are at least 3.5 years away from Mark
Get off the internet...Get into your Bibles

- **Same Rationale:** You aren't in Tribulation. Certain events **must take place first...**

3 Let no one **deceive you by any means**; for that Day [Seven-year period of God's wrath as per Dan 9] *will not come* unless **the falling away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the **son of perdition**, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

World will know they're in the Great Tribulation by two signs...

1. **THE Falling away:** gr. *apostasia* defection, departure. rt. bill of divorce. Repudiation
2. **AC Revealed:** gr. *apokalyptō* to uncover, lay open what has been veiled/covered up

Both of which were not happening in 51AD

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

1 Thessalonians 1:10 [Paul taught them to] **...wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

- **You are not** in the Tribulation though you have tribulations
- **You will not be** in the Tribulation. Jesus will rescue us **before His wrath**

Those that reject Christ will be in the Tribulation begin w/2 signs...

- **Sign #1: THE Falling Away** [not "a" falling away but "the"] in **2 parts...**
 1. Organized church departs from true faith. Grace/Faith/Christ
 2. True church departs to be with Jesus/Raptured... leaving apostate on earth

IOW's the Day of the Lord/Tribulation **cannot begin** until the born-again true Church is

removed/apostates are left; i.e., Laodicean/luke-warm/worldly/unsaved/politically correct/woke/religious/make-believers will be left to become the Great Harlot w/Climate Change cult. [NJC].

- Sign #1: Falling away. Make believers depart from faith. True believers depart w/Lord
- **Sign #2: Revealing Man of Sin/ Anti-Christ/Beast/Son Perdition** [Doomed one]

Who is AC? Whoever is waiting in wings after Jesus takes the church

Revelation 6:1 [1st Seal] Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals...2 And I looked, and behold, a **white horse**. He who sat on it had a bow; and a **crown was given to him**, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

- **How is AC revealed:**

1. **Enters scene** on White Horse [lit. as a peace maker] False-Humility

Make an agreement with nations to build his religious center in Jerusalem

2. **Exalts self** by sitting in Temple claiming to be God Proudful Arrogance

Lots of big mouths today...His will be the biggest loudest most arrogant mouth

Daniel 7:25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a **time and times and half a time**.

Daniel 8:25 "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall **exalt himself in his heart**. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But **he shall be broken without human means**.

Daniel 11:36 "Then the king shall do **according to his own will**: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the **wrath has been accomplished**; for what has been determined shall be done.

- AC Possessed by the Satan Mid Trib...

FP will cause the earth to worship AC which by proxy is worship of Satan

Revelation 12:9 So the **great dragon was cast out**, that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 13:2 Now the beast...The dragon **gave him his power**, his throne, and great authority [mid-trib] ...4 So they [world] **worshiped the dragon** [Satan] who gave authority to the beast [AC]; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" [I know Who]

- **When will he sit as God in Temple?** Mid-trib

Revelation 13:5 ...he was **given a mouth** speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months** [Last 3.5 years].

Isaiah 14:13 [Words of Satan] ... 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above

the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Ezekiel 28:2b... 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god

- Afraid yet? **Don't be shaken/troubled.** You will escape. Many will not...

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For you... know perfectly that the **day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction **comes upon them**, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And **they shall not escape.**

- **Don't be deceived:** You are not in the Tribulation and never will be
- **Those in it will know by two signs:**
 1. **Apostacy:** True Church gone/Apostates left. Philadelphia gone. Laodicea stays
 2. **AC will come on the scene:** Peace followed by war, famine, death, murder

So... What's now keeping all hell from breaking loose now?

6 And now you know **what is restraining**, that he [AC] may be revealed **in his own time.** 7 For the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work; only **He who now restrains** will do so until **He is taken out of the way.**

Mystery of Lawlessness: Why so much rebellion/malice/deceit in world?

Matthew 13:36b... "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the **good seed is the Son of Man.** 38 The **field is the world**, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the **tares are the sons of the wicked one.** 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Mystery of Lawlessness: Sinful man doing sinful deeds. Already at work but restrained
If God were not intimately involved in this world, **we would not last one hour**

- **v6 What** is restraining evil? Holy Spirit Working through the Church
- **v7 Who** is restraining evil? Holy Spirit Working through the Church

Q. How long will Holy Spirit restrain evil and AC be revealed?

A. Until Spirit/Church He works through are taken out of the way. **Rapture**

- **Lawlessness ramps up gets a new CEO...**

8 And **then the lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

- **Then AC** will be on scene Seven years
- **Then Jesus** will come back/Wipe out AC/FP
- **Then AC/FP** will be checked-in as first 2 residents of hell

Seven years of world control by one bad man...

9 The **coming of the lawless one** is according to the **working of Satan**, with all **power, signs, and lying wonders**, 10 and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they **did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

- AC will reveal himself for who he is by his works...
 1. **Works of Power:** gr. *Dunamis* Physical power whose source is supernatural
 2. **Works of Signs:** lit. Tokens. Appealing to understanding
 3. **Works of Miracles:** Draw people to himself with ***intent to deceive***

He will be quite a healer and miracle worker. I think he will be able to walk on water. I think he will be able to control the wind [e.g., Job's sons, Disciples on sea] ... [JV McGee]

- **Q.** Who is left on earth after the Rapture of Church?
- **A.** Those who do not receive the love of the truth

11 And **for this reason** God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe **the lie**, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.

- **For this reason?** Because then did not receive the love of truth...embrace a lie

Love of Truth was offered by God through His people/Holy Spirit. Most chose/will choose not to receive it, to suppress what they know to be true in order to continue to do evil. [NJC]

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men **loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

- **The Strong Delusion? The Lie?** Whatever it is solidifies them in their unbelief.
- **Lies of AC:** Jesus is not who He says He is...

John 5:43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, **him you will receive**.

Did not receive the love of the Truth...that they might be saved
Did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness

- **Sentence worst imaginable:** Abandonment wrath
- God gives them what they are screaming for. **Self-rule.**

Romans 1:24 [Reject/Suppress revelation of truth] Therefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts... **26** For this reason **God gave them up** to vile passions...**28** ...even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over** to a debased mind [2022], to do those things which are not fitting...

No one knows when God will remove His loving restraint from their damnation

When God speaks...He is not playing. Says what He means...Means what He says

- **A Strong Delusion** to believe “**the Lie**” will be sent to those who refuse the truth...because they took pleasure in what is evil/loved darkness rather than Light
 1. **Who will send it?** God will send it
 2. **What is the purpose?** Solidify the position of the godless
 3. **Why is it sent?** **They chose it...**

They thought they knew better...but then it was too late/frozen in state

Revelation 22:11 He who is unjust, let him be **unjust still**; he who is filthy, let him be **filthy still**; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

We are being bombarded by non-stop deception Get off the Internet and get into the Word of God

Ch. 2 Pt 1 Paul refutes heresy introduced into Thessalonian church: We are in Day of the Lord

Paul: Jesus will remove His Bride from earth before pouring out His wrath. God’s not unjust

Be comforted. Stand fast. Live an abundant life...**Chosen, Sanctified, Glorified
Done deal in God’s economy. Saved by Grace. We now Stand in Grace...**

Romans 5:1 [Jesus took our sin] Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have **access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

How important is it to confront Heresy?

How important are people’s souls?

- Jesus spoke sternly self-righteous religious leaders... and **quite a lot**
- **Religious leaders fell into 2 Groups...**

Pharisees	Believed in spiritual/Keeping law essential	Legalistic Conservatives
Sadducees	Did not believe in Spiritual/Immortality of soul	Legalistic Liberals

Both claimed their authority was from God. Both were sincere. **Both were wrong**

- **Modern day Pharisees:** LDS, JW’s and SDA

Matthew 16:11b ...beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Cult Def: Same Words/Different definitions. Skin of truth stuffed with a lie. Claim authority from God. Incorrect re. 2 beliefs essential to Salvation: **Person and Work of Christ.**

Eternal Question we must get right: Who is Jesus?

1. **Jesus Person:** God in flesh. God Almighty. 3 Persons one God. Father/Son/Holy Spirit
2. **Jesus Work:** Death on the Cross paid for sin in full apart from any good works

Getting this wrong till death is blasphemy of Holy Spirit: Unforgivable sin

Disregarding the Holy Spirits revelation of the Person/Work of Jesus...

Cults have a different Jesus. An impostor who cannot save Wrong with regard to the Person and/or Work of Jesus

LDS	Jesus created. Spirit-brother of Lucifer?	No Eternal Hell	Salvation by works*
JW's	Jesus created. Arch angel Michael?	No Eternal Hell	Salvation by works*
SDA	Jesus Arc angel Michael. Took sin nature	No Eternal Hell	Saved by grace?

SDA's Demonic sleight of hand. SDA teaches followers they are saved by grace yet...**kept by works now/judged by works later**; e.g., Keeping Sabbath/10 Commandments/Tithing. They teach Sunday worship is the Mark of the Beast. They teach Satan is a scapegoat who will bear the sins of believers. They teach soul sleep [Absent from body present w/ Lord?] They deny eternal punishment [Mat 25] They *do not believe we who are saved by grace alone* though faith alone in Christ alone are truly saved. SDA began with William Miller falsely predicting 2nd Coming [1843 or 44?]. SDS later added to Miller's false prophesies and doctrines with those of EG White. SDA denies the person/work of the Jesus of the Bible; thus, they are a cult who continues to deceive/enslave ultimately damn souls to hell who do not embrace grace; i.e., the free gift of God in Jesus Christ to all who believe. [NJC]

Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods...

Acts 15:9 re. New Gentile Believers: God purified their heart by faith

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

Grace: God's Unmerited/Undeserved Favor Saved by grace...Standing in Grace

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly **portrayed among you as crucified**? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? **Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

What does God think of "good works" adding to Jesus burnt offering

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And **all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...**

**The only Gospel that saves has nothing to do with us...That's the Good News!
Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone. Period**

Q. Why does this matter? **A.** If you are wrong about the Person/Work of Jesus; i.e., who Jesus is/all He accomplished on the cross as revealed in the Word of God... **you do not know the real Jesus, and If you do not know the real Jesus you will die in your sins.** The Jesus of the cults is a JESUS THAT CANNOT SAVE, with a GOSPEL THAT IS NOT GOOD NEWS motivated by a spirit that is NOT HOLY and certainly CANNOT REGENERATE [NJC]

2 Corinthians 11:3 [Paul: Keep it simple] ...I fear, lest somehow, **as the serpent deceived** Eve by his craftiness, so **your minds may be corrupted** from the **simplicity that is in Christ.** 4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an **angel from heaven**, [LDS]preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received [Gospel of Grace], let him be accursed.

Galatians 2:21b... if righteousness comes through the law, then **Christ died in vain."**

* Trusting in/Adding "good works" to Jesus sacrificial death as a means of Salvation nullifies the only means of salvation resulting in eternal damnation. [NJC]

There is only One Jesus that saves. One Gospel that is Good News

The Jesus that is God in the flesh. The Jesus that did all the work/Said it is finished

Deuteronomy 13:1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death...

...because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God

...who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst. 6 "If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers, 7 of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth, 8 you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him; 9 but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. 10 And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this among you. 12 "If you hear someone in one of your cities, which the Lord your God gives you to dwell in, saying, 13 'Corrupt men have

gone out from among you and enticed the inhabitants of their city, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods" —which you have not known— 14 then you shall inquire, search out, and ask diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination was committed among you, 15 you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it, all that is in it and its livestock—with the edge of the sword. 16 And you shall gather all its plunder into the middle of the street, and completely burn with fire the city and all its plunder, for the Lord your God. It shall be a heap forever; it shall not be built again. 17 So none of the accursed things shall remain in your hand, that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of His anger and show you mercy, have compassion on you and multiply you, just as He swore to your fathers, 18 because you have **listened to the voice of the Lord your God**, to keep all His commandments which I command you today, to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord your God.

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

- **Next Night [Monday] ...Praying/Walking. Smell of BBQ**
 1. Israelites in desert/Tent of Meeting in center
 2. Smell of Burnt offering knowing sin being atoned for
 3. Sacrifice speaking of **Jesus totally consumed for my sin**

Thought: How dare these organized religious organizations

Presume they can add to what Jesus did with their filthy rags/rituals?

- **Leaders Accountable** for every word...

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for **they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.**

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel of God**. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood**. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

We desire to display the Character of Jesus Character of Jesus is manifold

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace AND truth...** For the law was given through Moses, but **grace AND truth** came through Jesus Christ.

- **God is Love.** Love tells the truth for the good of the listener...

Matthew 23:13 [This is what Grace/Truth sound like] "But **woe to you, scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. 15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves... **23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have

neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.'

- **Jesus:** Spoke grace/truth to those headed for hell that they might turn
- **Paul:** Not squeamish about calling out virtue signaling/savage wolves **by name...**

1 Timothy 1:19 [Fight good fight] having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have **suffered shipwreck**, 20 of whom are **Hymenaeus and Alexander**, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2:16 ...shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. **Hymenaeus and Philetus** are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they **overthrow the faith of some**.

- **Pharisees:** Self-Righteous Cults/ism Gospel **keep the Law and be saved is a lie...**

Romans 3:20 ...by the **deeds of the law no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 2:16 ... a man is **not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified**.

- **Sadducees:** Lukewarm churches avoid Blood/Sin. Self-absorbed People pleasers
- **Come as you are?** No need to repent? No need for a Savior?

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue... holiness, w/out which **no one will see the Lord**

- **Lukewarm: Branches of...**
 1. **United Methodist**
 2. **Lutheran**
 3. **Episcopalian** and many other seeker-friendly people-pleasing social clubs churning out false converts and raising lots of profits...

Revelation 3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because **you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will **vomit you out of My mouth**.

- **A.** Then who is saved? **Q.** Millions

Jesus' remnant flourishes in churches with different names all over the world

Key? Salvation by Grace alone by Faith alone in Christ alone. **Period**

Not fun. Can't we talk about something else?

Jude v3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith** which was **once for all delivered to the saints**. 4 For **certain men have crept in unnoticed**, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who **turn the grace of our God into lewdness** [unbridled lust] and **deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ**.

- Not fun but **exciting on front line...**

Leaders are called to warn

Continue to be gracious/true watchmen on the wall/protectors of souls

II. Stand Fast Grounded and Looking Up

John 3:19 ... this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men **loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

- Those who love darkness will be **given over to it in the Tribulation**

2 Thessalonians 2:10 ...they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send **them** strong delusion, **that they should believe the lie**, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

We are those who love/believe the Truth of God
Different Motivation...Different Destination

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification** by the Spirit and **belief in the truth**, 14 to which He **called you by our gospel**, for the **obtaining of the glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Practical Doctrine/Commands/Encouragement while waiting for Jesus

Let's not be so heavenly minded we are no earthly good nor be too earthly minded to be any heavenly good. God wants us to have a balanced perspective. Live as if He is coming today and plan as if He is not coming for 100 years.

- **He will bring us all the way: He** Chose/Saved/Sanctified/and Glorified us

Romans 8:28 ...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son...30** Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also **called**; whom He called, these He also **justified**; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**. [past tense] 31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Philippians 1:6 [We are...] confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will **complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...**

- Since we look forward to a glorious sure future...

15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast** and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by **word or our epistle.**

- **Tradition:** Word or Letter from Paul

Grounded on the **Rock of God's Word** when winds of false doctrine blow

Ephesians 4:14 [God desire is...] that we should no longer be children, **tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the **trickery of men**, in the cunning **craftiness of deceitful plotting**, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up in all things** into Him who is the head—**Christ...**

- **Search the Scriptures daily like Bereans**
- Those who don't like conflict/need to feel liked...**step it up a notch**

Jude 3 ...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

- **Contend:** *ag-o-nid'-zom-a-hee* Agonize for the faith
 1. Friends/Relatives
 2. Cults/Denominations
 3. History Channel
 4. Universities
 5. Work/School

16 Now may our Lord **Jesus Christ Himself**, and our **God and Father**, who has loved us and given us **everlasting consolation** and **good hope** by grace, 17 **comfort your hearts** and **establish you** in every **good word and work.**

Ch.2: A letter written by someone claiming to be Paul: **Day of Christ is here**
A. No its not. Read your Bible like Bereans

- **The Rapture will happen before the Tribulation:** Remember I told you so...

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ...we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore **comfort one another with these words.**

1 Thessalonians 5: 9 For God **did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore **comfort each** other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

- **Balanced Life:** Plan for 100 years **yet** expect the Lord any minute
 1. **Hearts Comforted** Flying high with glorious future later
 2. **Lives Established** Grounded/stable/victorious now
- False Teachers/Winds of doctrine **will continually try to knock us off balance**

We must remain unmoved by anything/anyone apart from the Holy Spirit of God

Established by His Word today/Equipped for His Work till He comes

SUMMARY Stand Fast