

# Full Transcription

**Radio Host** (00:00:16) - Today on light of the word with Pastor Ray.

**Pastor Ray** (00:00:23) - Can I just have three minutes to present the gospel? Good news that saves you from your sin. And you can come into the presence of the Holy God. I know you still want to keep talking about Adam's belly button, and I know you really seem to care about the pygmy there on that island and the people who never heard the gospel. But let me speak to you. The gospel. And then we witness to them.

**Radio Host** (00:01:38) - The devil is a master of distraction and deception. Pastor Ray exhorts us to stick to the message of the gospel. The good news of Jesus and Him crucified our only hope. The devil wants you to focus on things that really don't matter. That can overwhelm you. But that's not what God wants. Here's what he wants. And it's simple that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Radio Host** (00:02:09) - Now, that is very good news. Do you believe. Well, let's join Pastor Ray in the book of Second Thessalonians Chapter three for today's edition of Light of the Word.

**Pastor Ray** (00:02:22) - Would you turn with me to Second Thessalonians Chapter three? We're going to finish. We're going to do 18 verses. It was kind of our way in this book. We took big hits, swipes, But here in second Thessalonians Chapter three, it starts with Finally, finally, brethren, Paul's bringing it to an end. He's going to give a listing of exhortations. The title of the message is Exhortations while we Wait for his return. This church was the model church as we studied book one written about 53 ad. This is less than a year later, probably than when the first book was written. He told them that Christ was coming. This model church, as we studied, they had faith, love and hope. But they've been duped by the media, if you would, and how fitting it is as we look at today, someone wrote a letter, someone promoted a false narrative, and they told this church that Christ has already come in this tribulation and his trouble and tribulation and persecution that you're living in.

**Pastor Ray** (00:03:39) - It's because you missed the Rapture. So now you must endure this tribulation period. It was a false narrative, but people were buying it in one of the reasons they weren't being first for Acts chapter 17:11. They weren't being like the Bereans, they weren't searching the scriptures, they weren't looking and remembering what Paul had written. And so they lost their hope. And I think they lost their hope

because they lost their focus. And we can do the same when we lose the focus. Why are we here? We just held him in our hand. We know we're here because he's choosing us to be here. Why am I in this situation that I'm in? Because he's allowing it. He sovereignly above all. And I can see the world and I can face the tribulation and persecution. And life's not going the way I think it should. For whatever reason it is. And I can start to lose my focus and even start to drift away like this church. And Paul writes them and he writes us. He gave some strong words.

**Pastor Ray** (00:04:50) - This is the book on the exposing of the anti Christ, the three chapters, one, two and three, why we took them in such big swipes. There was Chapter one Encouragement in Persecution and Tribulation. Chapter two the exposing of the anti Christ, the man of sin, the Son of perdition. All those studies are out online today. I want to cover it in its whole and probably have to go a little higher, of course, But the title is Exhortation. While we wait for his return, we're going to see four things that Paul's going to say to us as we wait one verses one and two. While we wait. We should be praying believers. Second point while we wait, we should be trusting believers verses three through seven. While we wait, we should be working believers Verses eight through 12. While we wait, we should be enduring believers verses 13 through 18. While we wait, we should be the praying believers verses one and two. Second Thessalonians Chapter three. Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified just as it is with you.

**Pastor Ray** (00:06:04) - I love it because anytime it's the word we love the word here at Calvary Chapel, we love the word because it is the word that is living and powerful, sharper than a two edged sword. And it does its masterful surgery. And sometimes if it need to, it needs to cut with big, big slices of a sword. Sometimes it needs to be a hammer and break strongholds, and sometimes it's sweeter than honey. And that's what Jeremiah called it, a hammer. Here we see that Hebrews tells us it's a two edged sword. The psalmist calls it sweeter than honey. And here Paul is using it in. It is fast. It is a 4 to 40. If anyone played sports, if you could run a 4 to 40, you'd write your own ticket anywhere. Full scholarships, whether it's track or football or anything. And this word, it moves quickly and swiftly. And this is what Paul, he puts the emphasis on the word. Do you notice that Paul's saying he's not saying pray for us, that we can put on a better experience, pray for us, that we can put on a better light show, pray for us, that we can do more programs that will draw people.

**Pastor Ray** (00:07:22) - He doesn't even say pray for us that we can put more people in the seat, he says. Pray that the Word of God can move swiftly, unhindered, uninhibited, and let it move and do what it was designed to do. And then here's what

Paul says, and this is amazing. At the time, the greatest Bible teacher on the planet is the Apostle Paul, the greatest apostle on the planet, writing these books, the Apostle Paul. The greatest worker in the church, the Apostle Paul. And he says, Pray for us. He has no no shame, no reservations. Pray for us because that's power. And he says, You pray, I'll teach. Do you notice the tying, though? He sees the power with the prayer of the people and the teaching. Why would he say, pray for me that the Word of God may go out unless he believed in the power of prayer? And that's why our first point while we're waiting church We should be a praying church. We should be praying believers.

**Pastor Ray** (00:08:35) - Charles Spurgeon, the Prince of Preachers in the 1800s. I love the full name. Charles Haden. Spurgeon I think at the age of 18, he had a church of 300. Only a few years later, he has a church of 3000. God does a mighty work with this mighty man. And he was a big man, a booming man. And he was yet such a simple man. They would even say, you know, he surely wasn't a masterful on the handling of the English language. But when he preached, there was power and people would come like they so often to do. When God's doing a work, they want to see what it is that makes the church, the church. Why is this church at this point of the story I'm telling? Several thousand. So they come and they think maybe it's the building. They look at the mass of structure because these aren't megachurches really back in these days. And they see and they want to see all the seating and all the stuff, and they're like, wow, how is this thing powered? And they see this man in bibs and overalls meandering around the church in the middle of the afternoon, and they say, Excuse me, sir, thinking he's the janitor or maintenance man.

**Pastor Ray** (00:09:52) - Could you show us where the power plant is for this church? And he says, gladly. And he takes them downstairs to a room that was directly under the pulpit area staging area. And he opened it up. And they're in the room where people praying. He says this is the power of the church. And that room would be filled with 200 people every time he preached underneath the pulpit. The men would later find out. As the evening service began, that man who was in the bibs and overalls now put on his suit and they would know who they were talking to. And it's told by historians that when Spurgeon preached and he felt that the word wasn't penetrating or he felt that Satan was having a way, he felt that the word wasn't running swiftly, that he would take his foot and he would pound the floor and it would send the signal down into those 200 men and women down below, praying to pray harder, to pray more specific, because the word is not running swiftly and having free course.

**Pastor Ray** (00:11:12) - I will gladly say and have no qualms about it. Pray for me. Then I might preach the word and it might run swiftly and have free course. I think there's a great misconception that great preachers make great congregations. I disagree. I think great congregations make great preachers as a congregation prays that the word would go forth regardless of who's in the pulpit. But they pray, just as Paul would pray. While we wait, we should be praying believers in verse two, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men for not all have faith. Hey. Not all have faith. Key word unreasonable. You know, there's a place and we just need to accept it. It grieves my heart, but there's a place that I recognize that a person that I'm trying to win to Christ, share the gospel, can come to a place that they're just totally unreasonable. Proverb says A fool has no delight in understanding. Proverbs 23 says, Speak not in the ears of a fool. He will despise the wisdom of the word.

**Pastor Ray** (00:12:32) - Proverbs 26 says, Do not answer a fool according to his folly unless you be like him. You know, there's a place where I just go, you know what? Can I just share the gospel? Jesus Christ with you? Can I just have three minutes to present the gospel? Good news that saves you from your sin. And you can come into the presence of the Holy God. I know you still want to keep talking about Adam's belly button, and I know you really seem to care about the pygmy there on that island and the people who never heard the gospel. But let me speak to you. The gospel. And we witness to them on our terms, not theirs. We don't go where they take us. We present the gospel in our terms. I'll talk more about that in a second. But Paul says there's unreasonable who for not all, have faith. And as we studied last week and last week's message, when faced with repentance, you'll find you'll truly see what's in a man's heart.

**Pastor Ray** (00:13:36) - When faced with repentance, because if they don't want to repent, they will become extremely unreasonable and they will come sometimes with daggers. You know, I was reading. I was reading and it's a good book if you want to read it. We talked about the insanity of God. Nic Ripken. Well, his other books called The Insanity of Obedience and even question using the word insanity goes. But if you take man's logic and apply it to God's ways, you would think God's insane and anyone that would follow him would be insane. You know what he quotes as he quotes a source in his book, So I'm quoting him 80% of today's church lives in persecution. It really made me think. I go, Well, that means I'm living in the 20%. Really, That isn't you know, the most I get is my feelings hurt or, you know, I get mocked and ridiculed and the whole book is talking about people who die for their faith, people who literally you profess Christ. You put your whole life in jeopardy.

**Pastor Ray** (00:14:42) - And it made me really start to think, well, just how true are we viewing the scriptures before us if we're in the 20%? Because he speaks to people in foreign countries and he goes, You should be writing down these stories of persecution and these stories. He goes, It's already written. Why would we write more? He goes, What do you mean? He goes, Read the book of Acts, Read Paul. Peter, read the Apostles. It's already written. We're just following on what's already been written. And here's what Paul says. That unreasonable and wicked men not all have faith. Acts Chapter 16 gets run out of town because he wipes out the demon possessed girl who was bringing money. Acts 17. You know, there he is. That evil men come and looking for him because he turned as it says. They turned the world upside down and they come. They can't find him. And so they find next guy. Oh, Jason, you're his friend, will beat you.

**Pastor Ray** (00:15:40) - Paul says there's unreasonable and wicked. And here's where we need to be. We need to be while we waiting, praying believers, praying for America, praying for our brothers and sisters in North Korea, in India and Cambodia and the like. Secondly, while we wait, we should be trusting believers, trusting believers, verse three through seven. But the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. I love that. You know, the NFL draft. If you follow football, I can't say that I'm that deep into it lately. But there's always the great debate. Looking for that next great running back quarterback. But there's always this place that they go. There's a player that is always the diamond in the rough that they have to make a hard decision. And it is that offensive lineman who they call the blind side guard or tackle. His whole job is to protect the blind side of the quarterback. So if you have a right handed quarterback, the blind side guy is the guard or tackle on the left side and vice versa for the left and the blind side guard or tackle or some of the most highly paid players in the NFL.

**Pastor Ray** (00:17:13) - And I love it because I look at this and it says, But the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. I think we need to be praying that Joe doesn't get blindsided, that Jonah doesn't get blindsided. We should pray for one another. Let's be the blind side. Lord, we know you're faithful to guard. We know there's an evil one who wants to come and blind side. And we pray because we should be praying believers. But Lord is telling us I'll guard you. And He's going to tell us more of how we help in that area. But who will guard you from the wicked one? The evil one? Last night I counted the words in the Bible. I'm just joking. 774,747. Interesting play of numbers. A seven and a four. A bunch of sevens in there. You know, the middle verse, if you go by words, is Psalm 118, verse eight, the very middle of your Bible. And it would say, it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

**Pastor Ray** (00:18:29) - And all that man can offer and all the man wants to present and give. The Lord says, Let me be the middle guard protecting you. Put your trust in me while we wait. We should be trusting believers. I don't know what's going on in the world, Lord. I don't know what's going on in my life. I don't know what's going on in this situation. But no matter what, I'm going to trust in you. And he goes on to say in verse four, and this is the tie in between the guardian and the trusting. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you both that you do and will do the things we command You do. You see the linking that God puts us into the middle? Hey, I'll be your blind side guard from the evil one. But I'm putting you. I'm giving you a word here that you need to be trusting and obeying and doing what I'm calling you to do. And this is how we gives this to ourselves. I'll trust you.

**Pastor Ray** (00:19:32) - But there's a word that you need to obey. And if you notice this word, command this word command. As we read through and finish our chapter today, verse four, six, ten and 12 command. It's a military term. It means to obey the orders of the leader of the military soldiers as we studied last week. We're the soldiers. We have a captain. Jesus is the captain of our salvation. He leads us in life. He leads us in battle. And verse four, we just read that you will do the things we command you verse six, but we command you brethren, the name of the Lord Jesus, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the traditions we which he received from us. Verse ten. For even when we were with you, we commanded you this. If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. This is amazing as he's going to talk about working and we'll get there in our next point. Now those verse 12, now those who were set, we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat in their own bread.

**Pastor Ray** (00:20:39) - There is this linking and there is this tying together of obeying the commandment and trusting the Lord. And many times people go, I don't understand how I just got wiped out by the devil and I'll be honest and I'll go, Really? Really? So. You feel that you were blindsided? And yet. As we discussed. You're sharing with me how much alcohol you drink. You tell me. I can't believe I fell in this area. You feel blindsided, But then you shared with me that you were going to the bars and the clubs. You tell me that you were blindsided and you don't know how you found yourself in this place. But you just told me how much time you spent clicking in areas that you know. Are dishonoring to the Lord and, you know, are strongholds that the devil grabs and seizes and destroys. You know, and we can go on and on and on. Can I just say this? I don't have any problem saying this. I will say this, though. Every time I do say it, somebody leaves a church.

**Pastor Ray** (00:21:57) - If we're in a war. And we're waiting for a soon return. Christians do not need to be getting themselves consumed with alcohol. That's just period. That's just period. I've watched more people get destroyed by alcohol. As a police chaplain, I've come on more death than any other reason than alcohol. And I don't know why Christians need to find themselves consumed by it. Like we got all this time for it, you know, And the Lord uses this word command as we see four times because we're soldiers. But I also challenge myself and ask myself, and I'll ask of you if. The way we respond to the command of God as soldiers in the church, in our life. If we were soldiers in the United States military. How well would our army function? If we decided, well, you know, I'm a little tired. I'm going to skip Drill today. Well, I know they're going to. We're going to have instruction on how to do, you know, jungle warfare. But I think I'm going to rather go and do this instead because I'm just a little tired.

**Pastor Ray** (00:23:18) - I just feel like if we. Trained. As we do in the church and work and serve the Lord in the church as we would as soldiers. How well would we fight and how much victory would we have? The Lord uses this for a reason, calling us soldiers. Because you know what? There is a training and it's I believe it's the cover of the Army at the West Point Academy. The way you train in peacetime is the way you will fight in wartime. And when war comes, it's way too late.

**Radio Host** (00:24:09) - Thanks for tuning in for today's edition of Light of the Word. Pastor Ray Bollas has been teaching through the New Testament Book of Second Thessalonians. A letter penned by the Apostle Paul. We pray the Holy Spirit has opened your heart and mind to new things today, and that you allow it to change you thoroughly. If you have any questions or would like to request prayer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

**Radio Host** (00:24:34) - You can reach us at 443995 3282. Once again, give us a call at 443995 3282 or if you prefer email, you can also reach us at mail at CCAAC.Org. Light of the word is a ministry of Calvary Chapel Arundel and you can learn more about us by visiting our website. Just go to [ccaac.org](http://ccaac.org) and click on "about" to discover who we are and what we believe as a church family. You're welcome to join us for services on Sunday as well. We meet weekly to study God's Word together and worship Him for all he's done and continues to do in our lives. We also gather for a time of prayer on Tuesday evenings. Find all the information you need at our website. Today has come to an end, but be sure to join Pastor Ray next time right here on light of the word illuminating the heart of God.

