

Future Trouble and Hope

Scripture: **2 Thessalonians 2:1–12**

Series: **Future Grace for Godliness**

Sunday, October 16, 2016



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Overview

Sometimes we don't understand the danger a threat may pose to us, therefore we don't understand our need for deliverance from it. Moreover, we have a tendency to downplay the nature of the threat. When we think about the topic of eschatology, it is tempting to minimize or even neglect this important doctrine and overlook what it is meant to instruct and encourage us. Conversely, many will obsess over and misapply this doctrine and engage in unnecessary and unbiblical speculations, which neither instruct nor encourage us. As scripture teaches, the spirit of antichrist is already among us, seeking to turn people away from the gospel of Christ. But there will also be a future antichrist who will come, who will exalt himself and demand that people worship him. This "man of lawlessness" will be revealed at the appointed time, and he will be a godless and wicked leader who will proclaim himself to be God. But there is hope in the midst of this trouble. The Apostle Paul reveals that when Christ returns, He will overthrow and destroy the man of lawlessness. This hope of Christ's return should also be the longing of our hearts today, as we face trouble now in our ongoing battles with the world, the flesh, and the devil. The Savior who will defeat the coming antichrist will make us more than conquerors today. Thus, we should stay close to Jesus and live in the expectant hope of His return.

Corroborating Texts

1 Thessalonians 2:14, 3:13, 4:15, 5:23; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-3; Matthew 24:10-13;
1 John 2:18-22; Romans 8:31-39; Colossians 2:13-15

Discussion Questions

1. Why can eschatology be so hard to understand? Why is it often either neglected or abused?
2. Before you heard this sermon, what (or who) did you think was the antichrist and the man of lawlessness? What is the spirit of antichrist, and how does it manifest itself in the world today?
3. Why is it important to test all teaching against the authority of Scripture? How do we do that?
4. Why do some people abandon the faith? Can they be considered false converts? If so, why?
5. How often do you think about the second coming of Christ? Why do we normally not think about it that much? How can we cultivate the hope of Christ's return in our daily lives?