

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - October 8, 2020**

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**Title: "Living Fearlessly and Peacefully In These Last Days"**

**Scripture Reference: 2 Thessalonians 2:2**

**"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."**

**I. Introduction**

A. Human history has had its share of evil leaders. The first century saw cruel Roman emperors, such as the mad Nero of Paul's day or the paranoid Domitian of John's later years.

B. The twentieth century witnessed a host of evil dictators, Stalin and Hitler.

C. Man's religious history has also been plagued by false christs, false teachers, cult leaders, gurus, and a host of other characters and wolves in sheep's clothing.

D. But there is one coming who will surpass them all, both in the extent of his power and the evil of his person. He will be the most wicked, powerful and evil man to ever walk the earth.

E. He is known in Scripture by many names: the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8,24,25; the price of Meshech and Tubal (Ezek.

38:2); "the prince who is to come" (Dan. 9:26); the beast (Rev. 11:7; 14:9; 19:20; etc.). He is best known as the antichrist (1 John 2:18).

F. The passage we will examine (2 Thessalonians 2:2), and the entire letter itself was written by the Apostle Paul.

G. Paul wrote this section to deal with the Thessalonians' loss of hope and joy because of their confusion about the end times.

H. Paul had already given them explicit instructions about the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18) and the Day of the Lord (1 Thess. 5:1-11). However, only a few months later, they had become confused, fearing that they had missed the Rapture and were in the Day of the Lord.

**Comment:** The Day of the Lord is an extended period of time, beginning with the Tribulation and including the events of the second coming of Christ and the millennial kingdom on earth.

I. In 2 Thessalonians 2:2, the Apostle Paul wrote the Thessalonian believers and warned them about events that would occur right before the coming of the Lord.

J. These believers needed comfort and assurance that things were not yet as they thought them to be. Therefore, Paul told them, "**That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.**" (2 Thess. 2:2)

## II. Exposition [Part I]

A. Notice that Paul told the Thessalonian believers not to be "**soon shaken**." The word "soon" is the Greek word *tachus*, which means quickly, suddenly, or hastily.

B. The word "**shaken**" is the Greek word *saleuo*, which means to shake, to wave, to totter, or to be moved.

C. The tense used in the Greek points to events so dramatic that they could result in **shock** or **alarm**. The Greek tense strongly suggests a devastating occurrence or a sequence of devastating occurrences so dramatic that they will throw the world into a state of **shock** or **distress**.

D. By using the words "soon shaken," Paul was urging his readers (and us) to resist being easily shaken up by events that will occur just before the coming of Jesus Christ.

E. Paul was particularly careful to mention that we must not be "**soon shaken in mind**." The Greek word for the "mind" is *nous*, which denotes, speaking generally, the seat of reflective consciousness, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, and those of feeling, judging, and determining.

F. The Greek word *nous* also describes everything in the realm of the intellect, including one's will, emotions, and ability to think, reason, and decide.

**Comment:** Whoever or whatever controls a person's mind ultimately has the power to dictate the affairs of that person's life.

G. Therefore, if a person allows their mind to be showered with panic or fear, they are putting fear in charge of their life.

H. Because Paul wanted his readers to remain in peace regardless of the rough events that were happening around them, he urged them not to allow fear from those shocking and distressful events to penetrate their minds, will, and emotions.

### III. Exposition [Part II]

A. To make sure that we understand the magnitude of these last-day events, Paul went on to say, **"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled ..."**

B. The word **"troubled"** is the Greek word **throeo**, which indicates an inward fright that results from the shocking occurrence described above.

C. The shock resulting from these nerve-racking events could be so severe that it could cause a person to be devoured with worry, anxiety, or fear.

D. These words are filled with so much meaning and to help you see and understand, perhaps a little bit clearer what Paul was communicating to his readers, please consider the following paragraph of the original Greek words below.

**"Some things will be happening right before His coming that could shake you up quite a bit. I'm referring to events that will be so dramatic that they could really leave your head spinning - occurrences of such a serious nature that many people will end up**

feeling alarmed, panicked, intimidated, and even unnerved! Naturally speaking, these events could nearly drive you over the brink emotionally; putting your nerves on edge and making you feel apprehensive and insecure about life. I wish I could tell you these incidents were going to be just a one-shot deal, but when they finally get rolling, they are going to keep coming and coming, one after another. That's why you have to be determined not to be shaken or moved by anything you see or hear. You need to get a grip on your mind and refuse to allow yourselves to be traumatized by these events. If you let these things get to you, it won't be too long until you are a nervous wreck! So decide beforehand that you are not going to give in and allow "fright" to worm its way into your mind and emotions until it ruins your whole life."

#### IV. Exposition [Part III]

A. Paul strongly urges us not to allow ourselves to be shaken or moved by anything we see or hear.

B. Instead of letting these things "get to us" and rob us of our joy, peace, and victory, we need to be *deeply rooted* in the confidence of God's promises.

C. If you take a look at the world around us today, it is clear that Paul's prophecy about the last days is unfolding before us.

D. Because of all that is going on around us locally and in the world, we must stand against fear, and be determined to remain steadfast in our faith and trust in the Lord.

E. In order for us to remain steadfast in our faith, it is essential that we keep our minds focused on the Word of God and the God of the Word.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages below by filling in the blanks. All Scripture references have been taken from the KJV of the Bible.

"And let the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Colossians 3:15)

"For God hath not given us the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_; but of \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_, and of a \_\_\_\_\_."  
(2 Timothy 1:7)

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to \_\_\_\_\_; but ye have received the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, whereby we cry, \_\_\_\_\_ Father." (Romans 8:15)

"Finally, my brethren, be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord, and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of his might:" (Ephesians 6:10)

## Questions For You To Consider

1. In light of the world events that have occurred in recent years, and in the year 2020, how pertinent for you are Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians 2:2?
2. Does it sound like Paul is writing about the nonstop traumatic events that have shaken the world over the past several years?
3. If it is true (and I certainly believe it to be true) that we are living in the last days just before the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, how should this affect the manner in which you are living your life?
4. Do you spend more time reading your Bible, reading the newspaper, or watching the news?
5. Whatever you dwell on the most is what will dominate you. Therefore, is honoring God, reading and applying His Word the primary focus of your attention?

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of **good report**; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."  
(Philippians 4:8)

I trust that you have been blessed through this Bible Study and in light of these last days before the Coming of Christ, we would all be found anchored in Him who is the Solid Rock.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin