



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Staying Ready for the Second Coming”

LESSON #2 = Enlightenment for the Church

Text: II Thessalonians 2



Introduction: Why do people say you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Is that true? Maybe that is because old dogs get tired of learning. Have you ever felt that way? The fact is that we never lose the ability to learn something new, which is what we will see in chapter 2. When we began to hunger and thirst after things that matter we can't get enough! We want to learn more. Last week we noticed that the church needs to be encouraged to stay ready. One of the ways we can do that is to stay enlightenment. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Look Out For Trouble, But Stand Together (vs.1-2)

¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not 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 had come.

II. Look Out For Temptation, But Remember The One True God (vs.3-4)

³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who 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.

III. Look Out For Terror, But Follow The Truth (vs.5-12)

⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And 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. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

IV. Look Out For Trials, But Be Thankful (vs.13-17)

¹³But 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, ¹⁴to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. ¹⁶Now 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, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Conclusion: Please consider the illustration of Martin Luther about Bible study. You may have your spiritual bags packed. You may know where you will spend eternity. But if you are ready, will you stay ready by learning more about God's will for you? He not only wants to save you, but He wants to empower you with the Holy Spirit and with knowledge. We need to dig into the word of God. We need to grow in our spiritual walk. We need to communicate with God in prayer and read the Bible daily. Do you know where you are headed? Are you ready to meet Jesus? If not, make things right today!