



2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
Be Ready—Be Strong
From sermon 6.26.22

Read *2 Thessalonians 2:13-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Following our in-depth biblical teaching on end times & the Antichrist, encouragement, strength, and hope are needed. There is a beautiful, divine reason God the Holy Spirit had Paul put this teaching next. We cannot just learn, dissect, and breakdown the battle(s)...we must repeatedly remember the end of the war and that Christ wins = we win. We also need the God-given tools of survival, going forward. There will be times, seasons, and occasions we'll want to give up. We must be strong.

1. Discuss: This is the devil's great lie and current ministry: Convincing lost people they are okay/saved...While convincing saved people they are not. If listened to, how can this weaken your resolve and faith going forward? Various personal observations and answers. See *John 8:44*

2. What things can take our eyes off Christ? Various answers. But, include: myself, problems, world events, health, leisure, money issues, conflict, apathy, emotions, ...

Read and Review Peter's experience in *Matthew 14:22-33*

2a. Which one do you struggle with most often? Personal Answers

2b. What plan or actions can you take now to avoid losing focus? Personal Answers. Possible answers: Review this sermon/notes. Memorize key Scriptures. Be more thankful.

3. What are some habits and practices that estrange our relationship with the Word of God? We Forget = Other things crowd out the truth, Misuse/misapply, lack of exposure. Lack of exercise = not *doing* what the Scripture says. See also *Matthew 7:24-29* & *James 1:22*

4. Discuss how having a sound doctrine concerning election sets everything else on the right path. If I think anything about salvation is me, I'll tend to think staying saved is about me. When I fail, I'll think I'm alone.

5. The great truth from Sunday: the antidote for anxiety = Prayers of thanksgiving.
See *Philippians 4:6-7*

5a. What percentage of your prayers would you estimate to be giving thanks? Personal Answers

5b. What might happen if, even for a season, thanksgiving became the dominate majority? Greater focus on God, His nature, His promises vs the world, the culture, my needs, my problems, the scary future...