

these same scriptural passages.” Can an over emphasis on “the end-times” be dangerous? Can ignoring it be dangerous? How can a Christian develop a healthy balance?

The Lawless One(s)

One of the apocalyptic images in this passage is the “Lawless One”. Paul’s words seem to depict a particular person in their near future, presumably a Roman emperor, who will declare kingship in the Second Temple of Jerusalem. N.T. Wright describes this as the difference between, “the world’s one true Lord, of whom Caesar is a parody”. Present day Christians often sift through the mirid of people who have met this description in world history. One way of understanding Paul’s use of this image can be summed up as “life in Adam, in extremesis”. Whoever, or whatever, the Lawless One is, it without a doubt, anti-holiness, anti-human, and anti-Christ (Johnson). When compared to Paul’s words in Philippians 2, describing Christ as a non-coercive, self-emptying King, the Lawless one(s) uses oppression, might, and position to rule. For Paul’s day it was an empire that could not accept the proclamation of another King.

The Restrainer

In the center of this chapter, Paul offers a second apocalyptic figure translated, “that restrainer”. It is described as one who withholds the tsunami of the Lawless One’s power. Remember though, Paul began this chapter addressing a concern that Christ had already returned. Perhaps the “Restrainer” is the Thesalonian church itself. In other words, “the restrainer refers to the ministry of the Spirit through the church as believers pursue their mission of preaching the gospel to the world.” (Powell). Christ’s Spirit empowering the lives of His people become the levee that holds back the flood of evil. How might those “frontline” Christians in hostile world areas be restraining evil human efforts? How might this motivate Christians to be more engaged in resisting evil in this world?



New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessing Express/Donate Gifts

- Donate **new** items to be used as Christmas gifts for those in need in our community
- ♥Remove tag(s) from the bulletin board in the foyer.
 - ♥Bring **unwrapped** items to the church no later than **December 1**.
 - ♥Concentrating on items most needed: **teens, household items, plus size clothing.**



At the Cross
Recovery
Tonight @
6:30PM

REMINDER:
Church Elections
Nov.24th

Check your
Church directory
For new faces!

CHURCH STAFF

Rob Kazee, Pastor
rpkazee@gmail.com ~ 202-997-1222

Jeff Wolfe, Pastor of Spiritual Formation
jeffwolfe125@gmail.com ~ 717-261-6173

Becky Wolfe, Office Administrator and
Pastor of Congregational Care & Fellowship
rwolfenaz@gmail.com ~ 717-514-6275

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School
11 AM - 12:30 PM Worship Service
617 16th St. New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-6444

email: office@tablelifechurch.org
web: www.tablelifechurch.org

www.  facebook.com/tablelifechurch

CHURCH OF

THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE
CHURCH



Order of Worship

17 November 2019

The season of Pentecost

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

Worship Reading

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Sermon Series: Wait! The King Is Coming!

Sermon Two: "Not Yet"

Scripture Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

We Come to the Table

Passing the Peace of Christ

Song of preparation

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

We Eat and Drink Together

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life

Gossiping the Good Stuff

Doxology

Blessing and Sending

If you are a guest with us today,

Please take time to fill out a

Connection Card as you leave.

Thank You!

Please visit us on our website,

www.tablelifechurch.org for details of events.

Also you will find, Worship folders, Church Calendar, more about our ministries and online giving.

COMING SOON

Nov 17 At the Cross Recovery	6:30PM
Nov 19 Children's Team Meeting	6:30PM
Nov 20 Caravan Awards Ceremony	7:00PM
Nov 24 Church Elections	9:30AM
Nov 24 At the Cross Recovery	6:30PM
Nov 26 Youth Ministry Team Meeting	6:30PM
Nov 28 Thanksgiving	****

Official Church Calendar ~ www.tablelifechurch.org/calendar

Sermon Reflection Guide

2 Thessalonians 2

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed when his time comes. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who now restrains it is removed. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion, leading them to believe what is false, so that all who have not believed the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned. But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose, he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by

our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Question of the Day:

Today's sermon addresses the Second Coming of Christ. When you consider the return of Christ is it something 1) you think about almost never, or 10) is it frequently on your mind.

The Second Coming

Growing up in the days of "The Thief In the Night" and "The Late Great Planet Earth" myself like many young people, often feared the mysterious secret arrival of Christ when he would steal all believers away leaving only the lost and wicked to fend for themselves on this planet. Speculation abounds as to what will take place at Christ's return. Theories range from a descension of Heaven to earth, to a human lift off into the sky. Some are very credible; others not so much. John Wesley is quoted as saying, "The fact I believe, the manner I do not know." Maybe the best answer. Yet the second coming of Christ is an important fact upon which Christian faith derives hope. Paul's encouragement in this epistle to endure centers around an expectation of Christ's return. How does belief in Christ's return influence your daily living? Does the proposition of Christ's return strike joy or fear?

Deception

Rumors about the Second Coming have filled Church history. The 1st Century was no exception. Most, if not all, first generation Christians believed that Christ would return before the century came to a close. Paul responds to a rumor that Christ had already returned, and to the "alarm" and disruption it caused in the lives of the faithful. Using apocalyptic imagery, Paul refutes this claim and encourages them to remain faithful to the training they have received. Jeffery Weima writes, "there are two dangers concerning apocalyptic texts on the one hand, preachers and biblical scholars are guilty of ignoring these passages from the Bible; on the other hand, many so-called prophecy experts and contemporary believers are guilty of paying too much attention to