

## **Sermon Outline: Navigating Perilous Times – Part 1**

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### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3**

Jesus used a good portion of the time towards the end of his earthly portion of his ministry equipping them for his departure and the beginning of the Church and for his return. He was prepping the generation that would birth the Church AND the generation that would see it come into its fulness at departure.

In both instances, he kept bringing home two very important warnings for his Body.

**1<sup>st</sup> Warning – Do Not Be Deceived /** That would mean that it is possible to be deceived and that there was something they had to do to keep from being deceived.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Warning – Do Not Be in Fear /** That would mean that it is possible for the Body of Christ to be in fear and that there was something they had to do to keep from being in fear.

Fear and all of its components of dread, anxiety, distress, sorrow, guilt, remorse, regret will drain your spirit, cause mental confusion (impacting how you think and reason), produce emotional distress (mean to break your soul) and when prolonged over time will wear down your physical body.

And if you also study His words for these two groups, he told them two continual instructions

**1<sup>st</sup> Instruction – Watch!** That would mean that it is possible for the Body of Christ to not be watching and that to watch was a choice.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Instruction – Occupy** (do the business of ministry) That would mean that it is possible for the Body of Christ to not be working and that the work of ministry was a choice.

Four foundations for two very critical time periods for this planet.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 /** This was the constant message of the Apostles. Though they thought Jesus was coming within their lifetime, all things weren't in place. It wasn't for them to see them. They were yet still in an unfolding mystery. **Daniel 12:1-4**

### **Why Such an Intensity of Deception and Fear?**

**#1 – Demons, Evil and Unclean Spirits, Fallen Angels know what is coming? / Matthew 8:28-29**

**#2 - Men of the Elites Know What is Coming / Psalm 2:1-3**

**#3 – Satan knows** (this is an ongoing war) **Revelation 12:11-12 /** There is a clear and increasing strain of wickedness from the Kingdom of Darkness.

**#4 - There is an uptick in spiritual fighting.** At one time it was a slow, incremental drip. Now it is a flow headed into downpours of evil. Before the Flood (Taught by the Fallen Angels), Early Civilizations (Tower of Babel), Scientific Evidence (Giants, Items in the Solar Systems, Advanced Science in cultures), Occult Contacts

**What do you do with so much darkness around you?** Deception is on steroids and fear is flowing from everywhere in media and the news.

## **Answer - Recognize the true fight and engage it!**

Fear is a spiritual force. **2 Timothy 1:7** So that means that everything that flows from fear is a spiritual force as well.

Anxiety, Depression, Grief, Sorrows, Worry, Tension, Stress.

**How do you hold back this deception and spiritual flow of fear and its various flavors?**

**How do you hold back the rain?** Use an umbrella or covering to divert the water away from you.

**How do you see in the darkness?** Use a flashlight to illuminate and expose the exaggerations of darkness.

**How do you address the vexations, stress, trouble, or anxiety?** Listen to or watch that which soothes.

**To address Deception and Fear, use** A covering to divert, A light to illuminate truth, A sound to sooth your

### **Ephesians 6:12**

Who the fight is with? What are their tactics and strategies? What are our weapons, tactics, and strategies? What is our wrestle ranks? We must be prepared to engage because the fight is upon us and we're in the ring.

The most critical time is just before!

### **Series launch – Navigating Perilous Times**

The goal is to make sure you have **EVERYTHING** you need to heed Jesus' warnings and follow His instructions.

Because I decree and declare at Covenant Family Church:

- We shall not be deceived by the lies of darkness but be fully informed of the things of God and his Kingdom
- We shall not be in fear by the peril that surrounds but be fully at peace, secure, and walking in everything God has given to the Body of Christ
- We shall continually be looking up as instructed and not around at the collapse of this world system.
- We shall occupy and do the business of ministry right up to our last step, our last breath on this side of glory!
- We shall navigate through perilous times and pick up a harvest in the process!