

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

End Times Bible Study Part 16

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This is Part 16 of the end times Bible study and it is the last show in this series. I want to recap some things, but I also wanted to go over a couple of closing remarks in this end times Bible study.

What we have been doing over the last several weeks is looking at what the Bible says about the last days and the end times with a particular focus on the something called the rapture. As I said at the very beginning of this series, there is a lot of misinformation on the end times. There are a lot of folks out there, unfortunately, that are trying to cash in on the end times. In other words, ministries out there call themselves ministries but what they're really doing is selling things. They're selling DVDs and videos and audio files. They're selling books and they're selling all kinds of things and they're asking for money.

We here at the BibleTalk Radio Show never ask for any kind of money or donation. That is not our purpose. Our purpose is to give. We want to give. We're not interested in taking from anybody. We want to give as long as the Lord allows us to be able to give. But there are a lot of ministries out there that want to gather people and money to their own beliefs. There's a lot of information; there are a lot of videos out there and so forth, even religions and churches that pop up because of men's desire

to exalt themselves or to make a living for themselves with money.

But what the Bible truly says about the end times is what we have been studying here. We focused on Matthew Chapter 24 because those are the very words of Jesus Christ, and the entire chapter talks about what's going to happen in the end times.

Jesus mentioned several different things that we have studied over the last few weeks, but one of the things that we saw from even Jesus' own teachings is something that's an event that is coming. We don't know exactly when it's coming, but it's coming.

Now, we're not talking about a religion, not people from a certain religion, but a people of God will be taken from this Earth. I am talking about the truly saved, born-again children of God. They will be taken from this Earth in an event that the Bible refers to as being taken; it refers to it as a catching away, but we normally refer to it as the rapture, which comes from the Latin word *rapere*, which basically means to snatch away by force.

Sometimes some Bible teachers will criticize that term "rapture," because they'll say the word "rapture" is very violent. It's also where the word "rape" comes from. It truly is. It really



literally refers to a violent, quick, forceful catching away, but the context in which we use it, of course, and we get this from the Bible, is that when you're rescuing someone, for example, if you have a child that is beginning to run across the highway and there is a bus coming, what you're going to do if you're the parent of that child is you're going to reach as fast as you can and you're going to grab that child by the back of the shirt and you're going to snatch that child back by force, quickly, to get that child out of the way of that speeding bus. So that is what the word "rapture" is referring to.

We use the word "rapture" because that's the context in which it appears in the Bible. For example, in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 when the apostle Paul is talking about being caught up in the air, we the people of God are being rescued at that time. We're being rescued from the coming wrath of God on this Earth.

Actually, during the seven years' tribulation after the rapture, it will not just be the wrath of God. It will be the wrath of Satan also, because he will know that he has a very little amount of time left on the Earth and he's going to wreak havoc on this Earth through his Antichrist and his one-world government. Of course, the Lord also will be sending all kinds of wrath.

The book of Revelation talks about seven seals that are opened and after the sixth seal opens, there are seven trumpets that are blown, and each seal is a judgment. Each trumpet is a judgment. The sixth trumpet opens up the seven vials or bowls of judgment, of plagues, and so forth. We did not do a study of the book of Revelation because, frankly, doing a complete study or even a halfway decent study of the book of Revelation would take a lot

more time than what we want to take on this radio show.

If you're interested in doing a study on the book of Revelation, dear listener, you can contact me. We are here at your service and we will be glad to offer a Bible study to your house, to a group, or even in a church or in a seminar, however you want to do it. We would be glad to do a thorough teaching of the book of Revelation, but that would be something that would be a little bit too involved for the radio show.

The rapture is the next event in prophecy, and interestingly about the rapture, which is what we've been talking about, is that there is nothing preventing the rapture from happening at any time. That's what's very interesting, and that's one of the reasons, again, in Matthew Chapter 24 where we have been studying, the Lord Jesus specifically commanded us two things. He commanded us not to be deceived, not to be fooled by the things, the propaganda, the false religions, the false teachings of this world, and He also commanded us to be ready. So don't be deceived but be ready because no one knows the day nor the hour the Son of man cometh.

We've discussed how we can know the season. Jesus did tell us to look for the signs of the times, the seasons, and He gave us some information on that. We talked about this at length with some of the things that He said. He said there'll be earthquakes in diverse places, there'll be famines, there'll be pestilences, there'll be wars, rumors of wars, nations against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms. We're in a part of history right now where we have so much instability.



We didn't even cover a lot of the things that I would like to have covered in a good, decent prophecy study. There are so many things in the book of Daniel that talk about the last days, specifically the tribulation. There are so many things in the book of Joel. There are so many things in the book of Ezekiel, Isaiah, again the book of Revelation.

But, dear listener, in this Bible study here specifically, I've tried to stay on track with just the rapture and the times leading up to the rapture, because, dear listener, the most important thing for you who are listening to this show right now is not who's going to be the Antichrist, or what are the details of the seven-year tribulation, what does the prophecy say that's going to happen to Israel during the seven-year tribulation, what are the plagues that are going to happen during the tribulation, what are the judgments, what about the mark of the beast, what about this, what about that.

Those things are great. They are a lot of fun to study, and I think there's a blessing in studying those things in a church setting or, as I said, in a home Bible study setting or even a seminar. But on this radio show right now I have you for a very limited time, dear listener, and I care about your soul.

The point that I have been wanting to get across to you is that the most important thing for you is not what is the rapture and what happens after the rapture. The most important thing for you is: Do you know for 100% that if the rapture happened today you would be taken to Heaven? Or if you were to die today, are you 100% sure that you will go to Heaven? Because the Bible teaches very clearly two places where a soul will go, Heaven or Hell. There is no in-between. There is no purgatory in the Bible. That's an

invention of a religion. It's a business. It is a business because the purpose of purgatory is to pay for masses to try to get, supposedly, a loved one who's in purgatory a little bit closer to Heaven. It's a business of religion. The Bible does not teach purgatory.

Jesus Christ Himself spoke of Hell where there is a flame of fire that is never extinguished and there is some kind of supernatural worm there that is never dying. In Hell, there is darkness, there is torment, there is shame, there is destruction, there is weeping, there is gnashing of teeth. Those things will go on forever and ever.

If you really want to know something about the book of Revelation, all you have to do is look at Chapter 20 and find out the destiny, the final judgment, of the people who are in Hell. It says, "And death and hell was cast into the lake of fire." And those people will be there tormented day and night forever and ever. Dear listener, that's not a place where you want to go. There is no parole there. There is no temporary judgment there. There is no break there for good behavior. A person who lands in Hell will always be in Hell, screaming for mercy for the remainder of all eternity, which has no end.

So the question for you is not what's going to happen after the rapture or what are the details of the mark of the beast and so forth. The important thing for you is: Do you know for sure that, if the rapture did happen today or if you die, you would go to Heaven? The Bible says you can know. The Bible says you can know because you can place your trust, your faith in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. Don't go through religion. Don't trust in your good works. Don't trust in your riches if you have any. You cannot go through Mary. You



cannot go through Paul. You cannot go through any priest or pastor or any other religious figure. You can only go through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in John Chapter 10 He is the door. Jesus said in John Chapter 14 He is the way. He said no one comes to His Father who is in Heaven but through Him. Romans 10:13 says, *For whosoever... that's anybody... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* And that's a promise... "shall."

Dear listener, you only have to know these things in order to go to Heaven. You have to know that you are a sinner, that you have committed sin before a holy God. Nobody had to teach you how to lie. You know you have stolen something in your life, even if you were just a child. The Bible says thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness, and if we go down the list of commandments, you've broken every single one of them. So have I. We stand guilty before a holy God. And because of that guilt, the wages of sin is death. The Bible says in Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death,* and that death and Hell will be cast into the lake of fire that burneth forever and ever.

So it's a hopeless situation. We have sinned. We cannot enter Heaven. But thank God that, even though the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. You need to repent of your sins. To repent of your sins means that you would change your mind, that you would turn from the fact that you are a sinner. Don't take pleasure in your sin anymore. Hate your sin. That doesn't mean you're going to stop sinning overnight. That means you change your mind about it and you turn to Jesus Christ and you beg Him for salvation and ask Him to forgive you.

Jesus loves you and He wants to forgive you and He wants to take you to Heaven. You ask Jesus Christ to save you. That is the fulfillment of Romans 10:13: *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

You ask Jesus Christ to forgive you. You admit to Him that you're a sinner, that you have sinned and that you have that guilt and you stand guilty before God. You admit that you deserve and you will go to Hell. You admit that. You confess that to Jesus Christ and you ask Him to save you.

You call upon His name today and the promise of the Bible is He will save you. But you have to trust in Jesus Christ alone, not in me or this radio show or your religion or any good works or whatever. You trust Jesus Christ that you are a sinner by birth and by nature, but Jesus Christ will save you and take you to Heaven when you die because your sins will be forgiven, past, present, and future. That's what you need to know, dear listener.

That's why it's so important that we have been doing this end times Bible study, because you have to be ready. Jesus Christ plainly said to be ready. When He's talking about being ready, He's not talking about having your bags packed. He's not talking about having all of your good works done. He's not talking about being complete with your sacraments. He's not talking about making sure that you're a church member in good standing.

Being ready means being born again because He Himself said in John 3:3, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*



You must be saved. You must be born again or you cannot even see the kingdom of God, much less enter in. So, dear listener, again, the most important thing about this entire Bible study, the whole purpose of it, was for you to understand that there is a day coming where we who are in Christ will disappear. But what happens to the ones who are left behind? This is what I want you to understand, the importance of it. I don't want you to be left behind. Let's take a look at that. This is what we're going to look at. This is the part that needs to be interesting to you more than about the mark of the beast and who it's going to be and what's going to happen and all those things.

Let me direct your attention, dear listener, to the book of II Thessalonians, Chapter 2. By the way, dear listener, you can text here at 0999-852-7223. If you do not have a Bible, I will be glad to send one to you free of charge. You will not receive a bill. You will not receive a statement. It will be free of charge. We have sent several Bibles out to listeners already. Every time a listener texts me, I will send it out within a few days or a week and then it'll be yours. It'll be absolutely free. You need a Bible so you can read what God says to you. If you want a Bible, all you have to do is text me and give me your complete name and your complete address, because I will fill out the form at LBC or JRS and I will ship a Bible to you absolutely free of charge.

Hopefully, you're already there at II Thessalonians 2:1. This is a letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica to the Thessalonian people, and he is trying to help them understand about the time that is coming, because during this time we're not told who but somebody sent a letter to the church at Thessalonica saying that they were

already in the middle of the tribulation, because Paul had spoken to them about the tribulation and about the coming rapture and the coming day. But apparently somebody scared them. In I Thessalonians Chapter 4 is where we learned about the rapture, but by the time II Thessalonians comes around, somebody had scared the believers there. So here, the apostle Paul is writing them to comfort them and to give some more details. Praise the Lord because now we have the information today to get some more details about the rapture and that day of the Lord, which is the seven-year tribulation.

What's interesting here is the pattern. I was taking a look at this earlier, the pattern in which he is speaking. Paul begins in the present tense and then he goes forward. In other words, he talks about the future, and then he comes back to the present tense and then he goes forward to the future again and then he comes back to the present tense. So, I'm going to try to outline that for you as I am reading so that you can see where he starts to go forward and backward.

So, II Thessalonians 2:1, the apostle Paul speaking: *Now we beseech you, brethren...* "Brethren," he is speaking to believers; he is not speaking to unbelievers. None of these messages are for the world. I'm trying to help you understand, dear listener, if you're not a believer that you need to be saved, because if you're not saved this message here that I'm reading is not even for you. It says, *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him...* "Our gathering together unto him" refers to the rapture. It's a direct reference to I Thessalonians 4:13-18.



²*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us...* Apparently, somebody had sent them a letter, I guess, in the name of Paul or the group that Paul was with... *as that the day of Christ is at hand.* Someone apparently sent a letter to this group, this church at Thessalonica, and scared them and said, “The day of the Lord is at hand. It’s happening right now. We’re already entering the tribulation time.” We don’t know what the motivation was, but we know from the writings of Paul that he had to battle against people that were spreading false doctrine.

People who are spreading false doctrine usually do it for one of two reasons. The first reason is so that they can have prestige and power and popularity. The second reason that almost always goes along with it is prosperity or money. False teachers like to make money. We have them all over the place today. This letter that Paul wrote nearly two thousand years ago we’re still having the same problem today. There are still false teachers that are doing it because they like to be popular; they like to be well known; they like to be powerful; but also, they like to make money. That’s what Paul was battling against in his day and that’s what we’re still battling against in our day. So he’s trying to clear up the situation here, and by the grace of God, we still have this information for today.

Now, in verse 3, he begins to say some of the same words that Jesus said in Matthew 24:4. He says: *Let no man deceive you by any means...* Now, dear listener, you don’t even know what to believe. There is so much information out there but the question pops up inevitably: “Pastor, there are so many churches, there are so many groups, there’s so much information. How do we know which

one is true?” Paul is saying here, “Don’t be deceived.” Jesus said, “Don’t be deceived.” In another place in I Thessalonians Chapter 4, Paul is saying, “I would not have you to be ignorant. Don’t be ignorant. Don’t be lacking in knowledge.”

How can you keep from being deceived? How can you keep from being ignorant? Dear listener, the only way for you to keep from being deceived and not be ignorant is if you’re saved and if you know the Scriptures. You have to be saved because, if you’re not saved, not only will you not understand what the truth is, you won’t even be able to believe the truth, and that’s on the authority of Scripture that we are about to read here in just a moment. You will fall for the deception. You must be saved. The unsaved person cannot understand these truths.

That’s why I implore you. I’m begging you, dear listener. I’m not begging you to come to my church. I’m not begging you to join my group. I’m not begging you to be part of my church or whatever. I am begging you, by the name of Jesus Christ, dear listener, that you would receive Jesus Christ, that you would be saved, that you would trust Him only as your Saviour so that you will not be fooled by the deceptions that are coming.

But even if you were to get saved, even for those listeners right now who are saved Christians, you can still be fooled by certain things because of lack of knowledge of the Scriptures. You must know your Bible, dear listener. You must know your Bible. That’s the core of this show. That’s why it’s called the BibleTalk Radio Show. That’s why we teach pure Bible here. You’ve got to know your Bible.



Jesus said regarding the signs and the lying wonders, He said, if it were possible even the very elect would be fooled, would be deceived if it were possible. The reason He says if it were possible is because Jesus Christ Himself will not allow the elect to be fooled. But if it were not for the direct intervention of Jesus Christ, even the very elect would be deceived. That's why He said if it were possible.

It's very interesting that so many Christians out there rest on the fact that they are saved and that it's all over. They don't have to do anything else. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Once you are saved, you don't have to do anything else for your salvation. That's true. Praise the Lord. You are saved and you're secure. But the problem is you can still be fooled. You can be fooled if you don't know your Bible. You've got to know the Scriptures.

Dear listener, I am imploring you to not only be saved but also to know the Scriptures. That's why I'm willing, as much as God allows us, to send you a Bible free of charge. I'm paying. I pay the 160 pesos or 180 pesos that it costs to ship the Bible to you. That's the cost of LBC or JRS to send the Bible depending on where you are. Some people are close; they're in Alangalang. Some people are as far away as Jaro. Some people are in Samar. But I pay for that as much as possible if I'm able to gather 160 or 180 pesos because I want to put the Word of God into your hand. You have to know what the Bible says in order for you not to be deceived.

The Bible is very clear that there is a lot of deception that is going to be going on and so, again, in II Thessalonians 2:3, Paul says: *Let no man deceive you by any means...* By any means, because there are so many different

deceptions and so many different ways of being deceived.

Now, before I continue with verse 3, let me just say this. Knowing the Scriptures without being saved is nothing. You will still be deceived. The deception comes from the fact that you are not Christ's. Knowing the Scriptures but not being saved is nothing. In fact, it would be better for you to be saved and not know the Scriptures than to know the Scriptures and not to be saved. The reality of it is, if you're not saved, you may memorize Scripture, you may be able to understand what the words say, but you have no spiritual discernment. You have nothing. The important thing for you, dear listener, is to be saved, born again, a blood-bought child of God.

Going back to verse 3: *Let no man deceive you by any means...* Now, here he's in the present tense and he's about to jump into the future tense, because, remember I told you before, in this particular passage Paul goes forward in time and back into the present and then forward in time again and then back into the present. He says... *for that day shall not come...* Okay, he's pointing to that future day that's coming, but he says it shall not come... *except there come a falling away first...* Now, he's talking about the present tense when he says that phrase, "except there come a falling away first."

I looked up the Greek underlying language for this "falling away." There are some people that say the phrase "falling away" refers to the rapture, because "falling away" means falling away from the Earth and so forth. It does not. The phrase "falling away," according to the Greek that the King James Bible is translated from, means exactly what it says in English,



falling away. It is the word *apostasia*, from which also another English word comes which is “apostasy.” *Apostasia* or “apostasy” or “falling away” means going away from the truth. In the last days, those days that Jesus spoke about, because He referred to the days of Noah, and in fact there’s another passage in the book of Luke that I did not even get to where Jesus not only says it’s like the days of Noah but it’s also like the days of Lot.

If you go back to the book of Genesis and you find out what happened in the days of Lot, the big deal in the days of Lot was Sodom and Gomorrah. In other words, the gay, lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, transsexual, all that is going on today like never before. In the last five or ten years we have had the rise of the homosexual agenda, the transsexual disgust- ingness that’s going on in the world today. Jesus very clearly pointed that out. He said as in the days of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah.

I’m going to go ahead and look that up for you right now, just because I’m mentioning it and I realized in this entire study I haven’t even looked it up for you and talked about that, so I’m looking for that right now. Luke 17, I want to take you here real quick because it’s something that we did not cover. In Matthew Chapter 24 Jesus talks about the days of Noah. We talked about that extensively because it’s very much a picture of the rapture. But I want to take you to Luke 17:26.

Please open your Bibles to Luke 17:26. Again, Jesus is speaking here and Jesus says, parallel with what He says in Matthew Chapter 24.

27And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 28They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe

entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. That is almost word for word what He said in the book of Matthew, Chapter 24.

But here’s some additional information that is not reported in the book of Matthew but Jesus said it in the same conversation. ***28Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.***

Now, why did He choose the days of Lot? What was the sin in the days of Lot that fire and brimstone came and destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? The thing that happened there were the homosexuals, the transvestites, the gays, the lesbians. All of these people had risen up and had gotten control of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. And that’s where we are today. Not only are people party- ing and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage and marriage is being redefined and all that. We also see the worldwide rise of the homosexual agenda and that’s what we’re talking about here. That’s what Jesus was talking about, so don’t be fooled if anybody tries to tell you that the Bible is not true, because the Bible is predictive; it’s telling us what’s happening today because, of course, God inspired the Bible and He saw all these things from the beginning.

Now, again, verse 3... ***except there come a falling away first...*** That phrase “falling away” means turning away from the truth. The underlying Greek word is the word *apostasia*, which is also where we get the English word “apostasy”



from. It means a departing from the truth. That's what we see today. Churches after churches after churches, religion after religion are departing from the truth and they're beginning to teach these things that are half truth or not true at all, which a half truth is nothing more than poison truth which makes it a lie anyway.

And you have churches today that are really bent out of the shape, talking about the love. They're talking about love everybody, accept everybody how they are, love everybody, love this, love that. It's great to talk about love, but the problem is they do not talk about sin and judgment. Yes, God loves the sinner, but if the sinner does not repent and turn to Jesus Christ, that sinner will be judged and will be sent to Hell as eternal punishment for rejecting the eternal Son of God. And that's what's not being preached today.

Everybody says love the homosexual. Fine. Jesus Christ loves and died for the homosexual, but He commands the homosexual to repent of that abominable sin and turn to Jesus Christ. The problem is, if the homosexual does not do that, then that homosexual will die without Christ and will go to Hell forever and ever. The churches today don't want to preach about sin. They don't want to preach about judgment. They don't want to preach about Hell. They don't want to preach about the lake of fire, so what happens is they say, "We want to love the sinner. We want to love the gay. We want to love the homosexual. Just let them come how they are. We don't want to judge them."

The problem with that is they're not preaching the truth, because, in order to go to Heaven, they cannot just continue in the sin that they're in and just come to church. To go to Heaven,

you must receive Jesus Christ. You must repent of who and what you are and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation. And a true, born-again, blood-bought child of God will have his lifestyle changed by Jesus Christ from an unholy thing to a holy thing.

The Bible very clearly says in II Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if any man be in Christ... not in a church, not in a religion, but in Christ... Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.* There's going to be something new because that person's life will be transformed by Jesus Christ. It says, *Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away... old things, that old lifestyle, that old sin... that's all passed away... behold [look], all things are become new.* He's a new creature in Christ.

Religion is not going to do that. Reformation is not going to do that. Money and good works are not going to do that. Only Jesus Christ can change a person. So there comes a falling away first because a lot of churches are just preaching this love and preaching prosperity and preaching a bunch of nonsense, but they're not preaching the truth of God, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the judgment to follow.

Now, let's continue. That's in the present tense, and then He says there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed. You see that comma after the word "first"? I believe that comma represents the rapture, because there comes a falling away first, then the rapture happens... *and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.* It's referring to the Antichrist. There is not going to be a revelation of the Antichrist. He will not be revealed until the rapture. Why am I saying that? Where does it say that in the Bible? We're



going to keep reading. Let's take a look. Now he's in the future. He's describing the Antichrist.

Verse 4, that man of sin, *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God...* So he's going to try to take the place of God... *or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.* So the Antichrist is going to be a Satan-empowered man who is going to claim that he is God. Blasphemy and idol worship. He is going to claim that he is God.

Now, verse 5, *Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?* And of course, he also gave us some insight on this back in I Thessalonians Chapter 4 and Chapter 5.

Verse 6: *And now ye know...* See, now he's back in the present tense... *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.* He's saying something is holding back the fact that the Antichrist will be revealed. That's why, dear listener, it's none of our business who's going to be the Antichrist. A lot of Christians spend way too much time trying to figure out who's going to be the Antichrist, and they are consumed by that when it has nothing to do with us because we're not going to be here for that. Don't worry. The ones that are left behind, they'll find out who the Antichrist is. He says, *And now ye know what withholdeth [what is holding back] that he might be revealed in his time.*

Verse 7, we're still in the present tense. *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...* The powers that are working behind the scenes right now. There's a lot of talk in different places about something called the new world order, something called the illuminati, the

secret societies, and the deep state, and the shadow government, and all those things that are happening all over the world. And there's talk with the Rothschilds and the international bankers. Well, that's exactly what Paul is describing here in verse 7. *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...* A lot of things are going on in the dark, behind closed doors... *only he who now letteth will let...* Now, the words "letteth" and "let" are old English. Today, the word "let" means allow.

Remember the King James Bible was written in 1611, more than 400 years ago. In the old English, the word "let" had two meanings. It had the meaning that it has today, which means allow, but it also had a different meaning called "restrain," which is the opposite of "allow"... restrain or not allow. So we can read it like this: *Only he who now restrains will restrain until he be taken out of the way.* I looked up the underlying language. I looked up the Greek, and the underlying language for the words "let" and "letteth" in verse 7 is the Greek word *ketecho*, which means to keep or to possess or to retain or cease or stay or take or withhold or restrain. So the King James Bible translated the word correctly, because in that day the word "let" meant to restrain as well as to allow like it is today.

So it says here "he," so this word "he" means it's a person. *He who now restrains will restrain until he be taken out of the way.* There's that word "he" again. Who is that "he"? That's none other than the Holy Spirit. How is the Holy Spirit here? He is indwelling every single born-again believer.

"How is the Holy Spirit taken out of the way? I thought He was God. I thought He was everywhere all the time." He is God. He is every-



where all the time, but right now, He is indwelling the hundreds of millions of Christians all over the world. But when the rapture happens, He will be taken out of the way as in taken out of the influence of the people who have Him in them, because every single person who has the Holy Spirit in them will be taken at the rapture.

You think the world is bad right now; there are a lot of things in the world that are simply not allowed to happen, not allowed to go forward because of the Christian influence, but when all the Christians are taken off the face of the Earth, that'll be it.

Let's continue here. Verse 8. this is a future event: *And then shall that Wicked be revealed...* Notice the word "wicked." It's a capital W. It is a proper name. That is speaking about a person, the Antichrist. *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume...* And this is talking about at the end of the tribulation... *with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.* So Paul here in verse 8 jumps all the way to the end of the tribulation.

Verse 9, continuing with the description of him, *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders...* lying wonders. He's going to be able to perform miracles. He's going to be able to do all kinds of things, but they are lies.

Verse 10: *And with all deceivableness...* That means lying and deceiving people... *of unrighteousness...* Now he's shifting over to a group of people; from the person, the Antichrist, to the group of people who are going to believe him. And it says... *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them*

that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. There are people right now who are listening to this and who are hearing the Gospel, but they will not receive the Lord Jesus Christ. They will not repent, and they will play that dangerous game that we talked about last week, the dangerous game of "when the rapture happens, then I'll believe." Oh no you won't. Watch this.

Verse 11: *And for this cause...* for the cause of verse 10 because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. *And for this cause God [Himself] shall send them strong delusion...* Do you know what a delusion is? It's the inability to believe or understand the truth. God Himself, because they didn't love it when they had a chance, God Himself will also keep them from believing the truth. Listen to this: *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie...* the lie of the Antichrist.

Now watch this, verse 12: *That they all might be damned...* That's talking about eternal damnation, that they might be damned to Hell. *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* The number one reason, the absolute number one reason people do not repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, the absolute number one reason is because people have pleasure in unrighteousness. They would rather try to cover their sins with a religion than to have them taken away by the Saviour, Jesus Christ. People don't come to God because they don't want to give up their sin.

I talk about the word "repentance" a lot and the Bible says repent. "Repent" means to change your mind about the sin. You repent. You say,



“I realize that I’m a sinner and I even enjoy some of those sins, but I don’t want to anymore. I repent. I don’t want this sin in my life anymore. I don’t want to be a sinner any more. I don’t want to take pleasure in the sin anymore. I want to turn to Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I realize that He’s God. He’s the only way to Heaven. I want to receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour.”

That’s repentance. That’s faith in Jesus Christ. But the Bible here in verse 12 is saying that these people would not repent because they had pleasure in unrighteousness. Dear listener, have you come to Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? Are you refusing to come to Jesus Christ because you have pleasure in your religion? That religion is unrighteousness. There are people who take pleasure in their religion. That is taking pleasure in unrighteousness.

Right here very clearly it’s saying that, when the rapture happens, if you’re playing that dangerous game that you’ll repent later after the rapture happens, oh no you won’t, because right here, the Bible says the people who are playing that game, they don’t want to come to Jesus right now because they’ll do it later after the rapture, because they want to continue in their lifestyle and their sin and their religion. The Bible very clearly says for this cause God shall send you a strong delusion that you will believe the lie of the Antichrist, that you might all be damned who believe not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Dear listener, is that talking about you? Because if you’re playing that dangerous game and you die tonight or the rapture happens tonight and you continue, or the rapture happens next week or next month or next year,

you will be given a strong delusion. If you die, you’ll go straight to Hell because you had your chance to receive Jesus Christ. But if the rapture happens, you’ll go to Hell when you die during the tribulation time because God won’t even allow you to be saved. He’ll send you a strong delusion that you might believe that lie.

Dear listener, I’m pleading with you tonight.

This will conclude our 16-part series on the end times Bible study. The end will be too late for you to repent, because you won’t know when the end is coming. Jesus Christ said no man knoweth the day or the hour when that rapture will happen.

Hebrews 9:27 says, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* What is your appointment to die, dear listener? Do you know it? Do you know the day that you’re dying? Oh, you don’t know the day that you’re dying? Then how dare you play that game of not receiving Jesus Christ if you don’t know if that day is ten years from now or two minutes from now. Who’s keeping your heart going? You are? Oh, no you’re not. It’s the mercy of God.

Dear listener, I’m pleading with you because I care about your soul. But more than me, because I’m just a man, God, the Lord Jesus Christ, cares about your soul and He wants you to be saved. But he will not force salvation on you. You have to make that choice now. The Bible says, *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.* That’s John 3:16.

God says in Romans 5:8, *But God commendeth [or showed] his love toward us...* How does



God show His love toward us?... *in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* That's Romans 5:8, check it out.

God loves you more than I do. God loves you more than I could, and Jesus already died for you. Won't you receive Him today? Won't you bow your head right there where you are right now and admit to God that you are a sinner and that you are damned to Hell. Won't you repent? Won't you change your mind about that condition and turn to Jesus Christ and ask Him to save you right now?

Tell Him, "Lord Jesus, I understand now more than ever that I have sinned against You. Dear Lord Jesus, I realize also who You are and that salvation can only come through You. I believe that You died for my sins, that You were buried, and that You rose again on the third day, that You conquered death for me, according to the Scriptures."

Won't you say to Jesus right now after all that, "Lord Jesus, I receive You. Please, please save me. Save my soul. I want to receive You as my Saviour."

Call upon the name of the Lord and you shall be saved. That's the promise of Romans 10:13.

Dear listener, we've come to the end of our show again so quickly. This wraps up the end times Bible study. The whole point of this message, the whole point when God puts these things in the Bible is to warn us that we be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, but the only way to be ready is to be saved.

Are you saved? Are you 100% sure?