

**A 3–D Approach to What We Believe:  
*Doctrine, Discernment, & Discipline*  
**Perspectives, Priorities, & Prophecy:**  
*Confidence In God’s Promises*  
 —2 Thessalonians 2:1–3:5 (& other supporting scripture)**

*Christ’s Return*

*We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.*

*—from ACEFC’s Statement of Faith*

—“What a time to take the news of the day in one hand and the Bible in the other and watch the unfolding of the great drama of the ages come together. This is an exciting and thrilling time to be alive ... The world knows that things cannot go on as they are. History has reached an impasse. The world is on a collision course. Something has to give.”

—Billy Graham, speaking in 2013

—“Will you imagine please, a platform that’s shut off by a curtain that’s drawn? There’s a lot of activity going on behind that drawn curtain. If there’s a crack between the bottom of the curtain and the floor, you can see feet rushing around, you can hear furniture being moved, you can hear things going on. You can’t see, but you know the stage manager is in control and is directing to make sure every person and every prop essential to that drama is in its place. I think that’s the day in which we’re living.” —Dwight Pentecost

—“Do I believe we are living in the season of the Lord’s return and if so, why? Yes, I say this because of what I call the ‘convergence factor.’ Not only has Israel come together as a nation again, as prophesied in Ezekiel 26–27, but a number of ancient prophesies of the end times seem to be converging in our day.” —Ron Rhodes

**The PRACTICAL APPLICATION of Today’s Study:**

Understanding God’s _____ _____ helps us build _____ _____ that will motivate us to point others to the _____ we find in Christ!
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—2 Thessalonians 2:1–3:5

—Six REASONS why this study is important & essential

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

5 \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

6 \_\_\_\_\_ theme thru–out the Bible

—Three Introductory Points to Recognize:

—1} Acts 17 explains that **the majority of the converts among the Thessalonians were Gentiles**. The Jewish leaders in the city caused a **riot** and brought **false charges against Paul**, stating he was attempting to **overthrow Caesar** by telling them about Jesus. It’s likely that **Paul was teaching them about the return of Christ and His future kingdom**. **Paul was kicked out of the city before he had the opportunity to finish teaching them!**

- 2} Based on how Paul introduces what he wrote, it's evident that God wants us to be **INFORMED & INSTRUCTED** about His **PROPHETIC PROMISES, PLANS & PURPOSES!**
- 3} One of Paul's **GOALS** for writing 1 & 2 Thessalonians was to provide some **CLARITY, COMFORT, & CONFIDENCE** that leads to **DEEPER FAITH & HOPE** in the LORD.

—PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES based on THESSALONIAN TRUTHS:

- 1) Putting our **BELIEF, TRUST, FAITH, or DEPENDENCE** in/on the **WRONG** \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to \_\_\_\_\_!

— \_\_\_\_\_

— \_\_\_\_\_

— \_\_\_\_\_

—LINE UP WITH GOD'S WORD?

—AGREE WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH?

—TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES? {Note Psalm 89:30–37}

—2) Recognizing God's Timetable

—Don't be \_\_\_\_\_

—Before The Day of the Lord = judgment for disbelief & distrust

—

—

—**BUT!!!!** **NONE** of that **HAPPENS** until after the ...

— \_\_\_\_\_ when the

— \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_!

—OUR RESPONSE TO THESE TRUTHS:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ {2:13–14}

- 2) **STAND FIRM** by \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ {2:15–17}

- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ {3:1–5}