

I. Troublesome Times

- a. It won't take anyone very long to notice we are in the midst of "troublesome times"
 - i. Gas is \$4.97 a gallon (national average)
 - ii. Recall elections (only 5 have made it to a ballot since 1921. Three of those in the last ten years)
 - iii. How many times in the last few years have the grocery store shelves been empty? (Toilet paper, baby formula, etc.)
- b. It seems like every generation has its "troublesome times"
- c. But these issues indeed can and do fill "men's hearts with fear"
 - i. Mark 4:35–38 (ESV) 35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
 - ii. Jesus is asleep on the cushion
 - iii. He didn't just fall asleep while sitting down (like we do watching TV)
 - iv. He purposefully went to the back of the boat where there was a cushion
 - v. He knew the storm was coming but had no fear of it
 - vi. We should never lose confidence in the Lord even though it may seem like He is sleeping or not paying attention to our circumstances or that He doesn't care about us
 - vii. He is in complete control
 - viii. Paul tells Timothy to continue his ministry regardless of what anyone says (about his youth)
 - ix. 2 Timothy 1:6–7 (ESV) 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- d. "All of the dead shall rise, righteous meet in the skies. Going where no one dies, heavenward bound"

II. Evils Abound

- a. Some headlines from the last week
 - i. "Bulletproof backpack sales soar after Uvalde massacre"
 - ii. "Senator Rand Paul predicts double digit inflation and interest rates"
 - iii. "Michigan soaring gas prices forces sheriff to cut response to non-urgent calls, deputies work by phone"

- iv. “Two Georgia pre-school teachers arrested after classroom video captures alleged abuse”
 - v. “Love of so many cold, losing their homes of gold. This in God’s word is told, evil’s abound”
- b. 2 Thessalonians 2:6–7 (ESV) ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.
- i. “The principle of law and order, as enforced by human authority, is “that which restraineth” until he be taken out of the way. This means that Satan will continually use every device, pursue every opportunity, and employ every diabolical instrument in his efforts to break down law and order in society.” ¹
 - ii. This world is full of evil and lawlessness
 - iii. 1 John 2:15–17 (ESV) ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
 - iv. 1 John 5:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
 - v. “Christians are to be in the world but not of the world”
 - vi. John 17:14–15 (ESV) ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.
 - vii. We don’t share the world’s values, morals, or ethics
 - viii. We share God’s values, morals, and ethics
- c. “All of the dead shall rise, righteous meet in the skies. Going where no one dies, heavenward bound”

III. Glory to Share

- a. Glory: praise, honor, extol
 - i. “Rising up in the sky, telling this world goodbye. Homeward we then will fly, glory to share”
 - ii. John 17:20–22 (ESV) ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

¹ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on 2 Thessalonians 2". "Coffman's Commentaries on the Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/2-thessalonians-2.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

- iii. The glory that God gave to Jesus, Jesus has given to us
 - iv. Let that simmer inside for a minute
 - v. Romans 8:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
- b. We share in the glory of God
 - i. Romans 8:29 (ESV) ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:49 (ESV) ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
 - c. “Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon”

IV. Jesus is Coming Soon

- a. Take heart, do not fear, do not be afraid; Jesus is coming soon
- b. The evils of this world do not have to affect you eternally; Jesus is coming soon
- c. “All of the dead shall rise, righteous meet in the skies, going where no one dies, heavenward bound”