

Series: The Gathering Storm
Message: A Sobering Future
Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (AM 2/19/17)

Like the Thessalonians, it would be easy to be unhinged about the future. These are uncertain, unsettling days that we live in. Within our borders, we live in a divided country, and without, we're pursued by determined enemies. Paul wrote to *enlighten and encourage* a confused church. Just as his words of insight and inspiration encouraged the ancient church, they will do the same for the contemporary Body. May we, today, be enlightened by the Apostle's inspirational words – ***Helping us confidently face an uncertain future.***

I. The Wealth of Scripture (1-3a) “Not to be soon shaken...or troubled”
The Scripture is our compass during our storms

- Take comfort in His Revelation (3a) “*Let no one deceive you...*”
- Take comfort in His Return (1a) “*The coming of our Lord Jesus...*”
- Take comfort in the Rapture (1b) “*Our gathering together to Him...*”
Redemptive Histories Horizon: He *Reappears*; the *Resurrection*; our *Rapture*; our *Reunion*; their *Ruin*; His *Return*; their *Reckoning*; our *Reign*

II. The Work of the Spirit (3-7) “He who now restrains will do so until...”
The Spirit is our comforter during our suffering

- The Spirit Restraints (7) “*He who now restrains will do so until...*”
- The Spirit's influence is Removed (6-7) “*He is taken out of the way...*”
- Satan is Revealed (3b-4) “*The man of sin is revealed...*”

III. The Words of the Savior (8-13) “The Lord will consume...and destroy”
The Savior is our captain during our struggle

- The Righteous are *treasured* (13) “*God...chose you for Salvation*”
- Our Redeemer will *triumph* (8-9) “*The Lord consumes...at His Coming*”
- The Rebels will suffer *tragically* (10-12) “*They all may be condemned*”

Application to life: Be encouraged Church! God is *large and in charge* of our future. He cares about every detail in the life of His Children. Our faith is enlarged when we *Rest* in His love and *Realize* His plans for our future. Do you *know* the Lord? Are you *resting* in His love? Are you *connected and contributing* to His Church? Are you *preparing* as the Bride for the soon coming Bridegroom? Take *comfort* that God has a wonderful plan for your life in Him.