

Matthew 22-06-26a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. This is the 26th day of June, 2022. We're in Matthew chapter 24, and we're looking at the Lord Jesus giving us information about the signs of the end.

And there are actually seven of these, each of which has had a partial historical fulfillment each of which has a future historical fulfillment, and each of which has pertinence and applicability for you and me in the present. So having looked at these in some detail, we're going to summarize them. There are going to be seven, good biblical number, seven signs illustrated by seven parables.

And given that the time of tribulation is seven years, and seven is a great number of biblical perfection, four being completeness on earth, and three being perfection in heaven, we have a lot to cover this morning in that regard. Let's ask God's blessing on our fellowship and on our study, and we'll begin. Father, it is such a comfort to know that it is not by might nor by power, but by your spirit that we are enabled and empowered to rise above the dust from which we are made, and the corruption that is within us and outside of us, and have lives with purpose and meaning and definition through the work of your son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank you for him. We thank you for his example in the historical past. We thank you for the hope of his coming and his fulfillment of your plan and purpose, both in this age, in the millennial age, and in the eternal ages to come.

We pray that as we look at this section in your word this morning and the principles that it contains, that the Holy Spirit will help us to understand them, not only to grasp the import of what the Lord Jesus says here, but how it affects us in our lives in the time that is allotted to us before the return of the Savior to take us to himself and present us before your throne. So we pray that you will bless our time of fellowship, our conversation, our ministry in music, and our investigations and our seeking of better understanding of your word, and we ask it all in Jesus' name, amen. You will remember, because we have been here quite some time now in Matthew chapter 24, that Jesus has a lot to say in answer to the question, tell us, when will these things be? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? What I'd like to do is take a look at these signs that we've seen in the middle section of the chapter and summarize them and point to what they mean to us.

It's easy to say, well, those Jews better watch out because when the abomination of desolation is set up, et cetera, et cetera. But it's very interesting to see the partial fulfillment of these, their ongoing meaning and warning value for us, and then their ultimate future fulfillment in the last days of the 70th week of Daniel. So let's go through these.

There are going to be seven. You can just write them down. I'm going to entitle this a synopsis of the coming of the last days.

And the reason I say synopsis is because we are going to appeal to the synoptic gospels to get the full picture that Jesus presented on this day of revelation. The first that we saw was in verse five of chapter 24. So the first sign is what I would say, false claims about Christ.

These fall into three categories. There are those who say that Jesus is the Christ in the same way that Satan in the garden said, hath God not said, you can eat of every tree? He did say that. That's just not all that he said.

And there are those who will claim that Jesus is the Christ. Many will come saying, I am he, Jesus says, first person pronoun referring to himself and will deceive many. They get their foot in the door by acknowledging Christ.

How do you think this happens with these individuals that roll up on a bicycle and knock on your door? Oh, we believe Jesus is the son of God. We believe he's the reality that the Bible speaks of and then they proceed to deceive and to try to attract people into a cult. That's the first kind, those who acknowledge Jesus and then use that entree to deceive.

Secondly, there are those who will claim to be the Messiah. We haven't really seen a lot of this in our day or in our time. There were occasional claimants to the office or role of Messiah in Jewish history, but not a lot.

This is something that really is going to pertain to its greatest extent during Daniel's 70th week. There are going to be so many people looking for something to give them hope and people will supply that hope by making this claim. The third kind is those who proclaim that somebody else is the Christ, false prophets.

So when Jesus says, many will come in my name saying I am he, I am the Christ and will deceive many. You have this in Matthew 24, verse five. We also have it in verses 23 through 28.

If anyone says to you, look, here is the Christ or there, do not believe it. So many exhortations in the word of God saying, believe, have faith, trust. And we have so many exhortations to faith.

And then we have these counter examples. Do not believe this. When somebody says it, don't believe it.

Do not believe. And this continues in verse 24, false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive if possible, even the elect. All three of these, whether it is those pointing to Jesus, those claiming to be Jesus or a Messiah in the manner of Jesus, or those who proclaim, look, I'm pointing you to the Jesus.

I am a Latter-day John the Baptist. All of them have as their primary function and purpose to deceive. It isn't that we can be deceived.

We can draw wrong conclusions. We can look at evidence that may not be complete and draw a false conclusion and we can deceive ourselves. We can have confirmation bias where we sort of ignore and refuse to admit evidence that doesn't fit our worldview.

But when people intentionally come to deceive, you get things in the mail. I got a piece of mail the other day that looked for all the world like it came from the U.S. government, telling me, you can tell how old I am, all about signing up for Medicare and what are your options and so on. Looked exactly like something you'd get if you're on active duty from Kansas City Finance Center or whatever.

And in the tiny fine print, it said, and I mean, you had to get a magnifying glass. We're not related to the government or any government organization. It was all a scam to get you to call their number to get roped into something that they're gonna make money off of.

It is deceptive. They rope in thousands of elderly people every year by making them think they have won the publisher's clearing house or some other sweepstake. You are a winner and they get people to call.

Or I've got money for you from Ubi Zimbabwe over in Africa somewhere. He left you \$50 million. All you need to do is send us a token amount so that we can pay the postage to get this thing out of the bank and give it to you.

It's all deception. Deception is the purpose. This is with malice of forethought.

They are intentionally deceiving. They are not themselves deceived. They are attempting to deceive because there is profit in it for themselves, whether it is power, influence, money, safety.

Maybe they are hench persons working for some entity they think is gonna remain in power. Their intention is to deceive. And if possible, they will deceive even the elect in verse 24.

And Jesus says, look, behold, I have told you beforehand, there's no excuse for being deceived because I myself, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, your Savior, I have warned you. You've got no excuse for being deceived if you listen to the words of the Lord. Therefore, if they say to you, look, he's in the desert, do not go out.

Or look, he's in the inner rooms. Do not believe. Do not believe.

There are things we should believe and there are things we should not believe. And then he describes what his coming will actually be like. You should know the difference.

If it doesn't look like lightning coming from the East and going to the West, it's not the coming of the Son of Man. So false claims about Christ. This is the first sign.

This took place in the 60s AD, or as the secular humanists like to say, the 60s, the year 60s of the common era. When you see CE, they're substituting that for AD. And it will happen again in a much more intensive and deceptive fashion after we are gone.

What is the application for us? If it happened to the Jews back then, it's gonna happen to them in the future. What about us? Turn to 2 Thessalonians because this is the application. Write it under sign number one.

The sign is false claims about Christ. We've seen the detail in Matthew 24, and verse five and verses 23 through 28. Now we're gonna see what it means to us.

2 Thessalonians 2. 2 Thessalonians 2, beginning at verse nine. Actually, you can begin at verse eight, where the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming. The first thing Paul wants to assure the Thessalonians of is when evil manifests itself and you see it, be aware the first thought you should have is, well, this is not gonna last.

The Lord Jesus Christ is going to destroy this. Before I have any other thoughts about it, just remember, this is temporary. It is allowed in the plan, purpose, and will of God, but it's temporary.

And the first thing to remember when you see evil's ugly face, the man of sin revealed, you know what? My very first thought, this is gonna be destroyed. Jesus is gonna take care of this. He's only letting it show its face for a purpose.

The Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan. What is the working of Satan? He says, this man of sin, he's gonna work the way Satan has always worked.

How does Satan work? Half truths, truth mixed with error. Dough that has been leavened. It's still bread dough, but there's leaven, and a little leaven will get through the whole thing and corrupt it and cause it to swell and emit gases in a form of corruption.

So his action is gonna be the way Satan has always worked, has always acted. So in 2 Thessalonians 2, verse 10, with all unrighteousness. Notice above, I didn't finish verse nine.

According to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders. Generation that seeks a sign is gonna be fooled by lying signs and wonders. If you're guided by signs, signs can fool you.

How do you know if a sign is from God or if it's a lying sign and wonder? If it's according to the working of Satan. Moses throws down his rod, it turns into a serpent. So do the magicians in Pharaoh's court.

They can throw down a rod and turn it into a serpent. Love to see the rerun of that whole palace scene someday. All power, all signs, all lying wonders.

If you're looking for quote unquote evidence, people who want to see it will see it. People who want to believe it will believe it. Well, this has got to be the guy.

Look at his power. Look at his signs. Look at his wonders.

With all unrighteous deception. Here's that theme of deception again. Among those who perish, those who are perishing, why? Circle it, put a star next to it because they did not receive the love of the truth in order that they might be delivered.

The love of the truth is on offer. God not only presents the truth, but he makes us capable of loving the truth. It is something that we can receive and we receive it by choice.

Jesus said, you shall know the truth and the truth will liberate you. The truth will set you free. There are conditions on that promise.

If you take his words to heart, if you receive a love of the truth, you will be delivered. These people, when it was possible to love the truth, turned it away. I like deception.

I've told you this before, but in my youth, I was single for a long time. I was single all the way through my 20s. And I rubbed elbows with largely Marines, Marine officers, gentlemen by congressional act and decree.

But one of the things that I observed across those years was the willing suspension of disbelief on the part of young ladies who were dated by my fellow officers. And they should have known better. I remember a particular case where there were three different girls and they were friends.

They knew each other. I think two of them worked together and the other was like a sister or something. And they were dated by, this first girl was dated by a guy who took advantage of her and then threw her over for somebody else.

Her friend started dating this same guy and was taken advantage of and deflowered and then cast aside because he got interested in this third girl who was friends with the first two girls who knew the history. But he had a knack for telling young ladies what they wanted to hear. Oh, this is why that first relationship fell apart but you're different.

And you and I have something unique and he could lay it on so thick. They should have wanted to know the truth and not fallen for an attractive lie. And this is our challenge.

Lies are attractive. This is why people believe them. We want to believe that we can pass a law and end violence.

We want to believe that by sending some token amount to some charity, we are ending world hunger or aiding and defeating somebody that is at war on some faraway continent. We tell ourselves these lies and others tell us these lies and we choose to believe them. We do not choose to receive a love of the truth.

It's a choice. I need to look into this further. It sounds so good.

There was just a study published within the last week talking about a promising study in mice related to the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. There are people and I have talked to them in person who think the cure for Alzheimer's has been found. Where can I get it? I want to believe that this sinister, degrading, debilitating condition is treatable by human science and can be cured.

People long for cures for every kind of malady from cancer to foot fungus. And it is from the deadly and the fatal to the annoying and the grinding span across the years of things that afflict us. And there are people who will take advantage.

I've got an herb. I've got snake oil. I've got, even today, you look at science itself offering these treatments that end in UMAB, you know, Zolumabab or whatever else.

You see them on TV commercials all the time. Why do pharmaceutical companies market directly to people watching TV instead of sending a scientific study to doctors who can actually prescribe this medicine? You can't go down to Walmart pharmacy and buy this stuff. But they market it to people because they want people to believe that this is going to solve their problem.

And to pester their doctor to prescribe it because there's not sufficient science that doctors will just adopt it and hospitals will administer it. So they want to get people to believe. And in the fine print side effects may include bleeding at your ears, loss of limbs, you know, sterilization and, you know, all kinds of horrible things.

But people just tune that out. Live your life the way you used to. Play with your grandkids.

Wear shorts and t-shirts and splotches on your skin won't show. It is a lie. Jesus warned about the deception.

Paul warns about the deception. He is telling Christians in Thessalonica about the future when the man of sin is revealed after they're gone. Why does he bother? Why didn't he just say, well, the man of sin will be revealed.

Don't worry about him because you'll be gone. Because this pattern of deception is

something we have to watch out for. Be not deceived.

How many times does the Bible say it? And they did not receive a love of the truth that they might be saved for this reason, God will send them. Strong delusion. God is unhappy that people are uninterested in him and his truth.

And if you choose to not love the truth, God will send. God is going to allow this man of sin. God could think a thought and the man of sin would vaporize.

God could think a thought and Satan would be in the lake of fire getting destroyed. Why does God allow Satan to operate? Why does he roam the earth like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? Why is God going to allow the man of sin? Why is God allowing martyrdom of Christians now and in the future and has done in the past? Why does God allow it? God will send. God will permit because it is a part of his larger plan and purpose.

We don't learn by being told, we have to learn by experience. God will send them a strong delusion so that they should believe the lie. God either grants a love of the truth or God sends delusion your way.

It is the judgment on rejecting truth is to be handed a delusion. How did that snake get into the garden? Do you ever stop and ask that question? If God's got this garden and none of the toothy dinosaurs and whatever else is roaming outside, it's perfectly safe. Adam and Eve can walk around in there and they all together and name animals and pick fruit and enjoy fellowship with each other.

They are completely without danger. And suddenly there is this serpent. Did God not see the serpent coming? Did he not know that it was gonna talk to Eve? God absolutely knew it.

And God absolutely allowed it because God gives us free will. We can choose the truth or we can choose to not love the truth in which case delusion will come. Deception will fall for it.

Lies will believe them. And it is a judgment on choosing badly. That is 2 Thessalonians 2 9-12.

Flip over to Revelation 13. This is the fulsome description of the man of sin being revealed. The beast and his false prophet.

And what Jesus foretells is detailed here. You can start with the description in verses one through 10 of the beast. And look at verse seven.

It is granted to him, this is what who is called the Antichrist, although the Bible doesn't really name him that. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome

them. Really? Granted by whom? The beast.

Satan's diabolical agent is going to make war with the sanctified ones and overcome them. Who is the subject of the verb grant? Who is it that is granting this power to him? It is God. He couldn't do this without God's permission, consent.

It is granted to him to overcome them. And authority is given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. Notice, whatever confederates people, whether it is their ethnicity, whether it is their language, whether it is their national location, whatever it is that confederates them.

And tribe, it's real interesting. I've chosen not to do a study on this word tribe, but it is a word that means people that are united in some common cause or goal. People who have a social cause or a political cause are a tribe.

There's an interesting website with a blog, one of the few to which I subscribe called Truth Over Tribe. I like the name because tribe can take many forms. All who dwell on the earth will worship him whose names have not been written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

If anyone has an ear, let him hear. Remember when Jesus said, let the reader understand. If you have an ear, pay attention.

There is going to be widespread deception and this deception is gonna result in the death of God's sanctified ones. You worship him or you can actually lose your life. We don't even wanna lose money.

We don't wanna lose freedom. We don't wanna lose the right to this or the right to that. Well, when this guy is in charge, it is submit or die and you lose your life.

Much more on the line for those of us that have had it soft, people in Africa and other places in the world already understand this kind of power. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity. He who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword.

Here is the patience and faith of the saints. Same thing Paul said, as soon as you think about the beast, just remember, the Lord Jesus is gonna slay him with the breath of his mouth, but he's gonna have a time to prevail. The patience and the faith of the saints who are going to be slain by this guy is to remember that if he's enslaving them, if he's imprisoning them, he is going to be enslaved and imprisoned.

If he is killing them, he is going to be killed violently. This is where our patience and our faith has to rest. If God allows a temporary victory, it's for a reason and a purpose.

These are gonna be the souls under the altar. How long, oh Lord, are we going to be unavenged? And he gives them white robes and says, wait a little while. And you have

this in, the souls under the altar seen in Revelation.

Turn back to 2 Peter 2. What is our application of this? We already know that we should not allow ourselves to be deceived. We should cultivate that love of the truth that is given to us. In 2 Peter 2, what is the pertinence now? We're not in the last days.

The beast has not appeared. We're not in the latter days of the temple in Jerusalem, back in 66 through 70 AD. Actually, it's AD 66 through 70 to say it correctly.

Look at 2 Peter 2. There were false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you. This is Peter talking to the church. Now these are largely Jewish diaspora types, but they are church.

This is not talking about the 70th week. This is not talking to them as Israelites. It's talking to them as believers.

There will be false teachers among you who will surreptitiously, it says secretly, but if it's a secret, nobody's talking. It means surreptitiously. They're bringing in something that is a destructive heresy, but it doesn't look like it.

It looks like good stuff. It looks like truth. It looks like insight, but they are false teachers and they're gonna fool people with what looks like teaching, what sounds like truth, but it is not just a heresy, it's a destructive heresy.

One of the ways that these false teachings are destructive is that they occupy the space that should be taken by truth. I say again, to the extent that we listen to, think about, buy into falsehood, it is taking the space. You think about how your time is spent.

You think about, well, what is the percentage of my day that goes to work? What's the percentage that goes into fruitful conversation with my family and my fellow believers? What is the amount of time that I devote to bubble gum for the brain, where I look at the clock at seven o'clock, I watch something, I look at the clock, now it's nine o'clock. Two hours of my life have gone by, something occupied that time. Hopefully it was something worthwhile.

But if not, it took up space that could have been occupied by something worthwhile. And the time is going to spend, it is going to go by. Time is a one-way forward vector and something is gonna occupy.

These false and destructive heresies take the place of truth. People think about them and believe them and act on them instead of truth. You can't get the truth in there because the shelf is already full.

Refrigerator ran out this past week and you got a couple of spare refrigerators, you wanna move everything out so the guy can work on it. Where do you put it? If your other

refrigerator and freezer is completely full, where do you put this stuff? The space is occupied. That's one of the hazards of falsehood.

If you get too wrapped up in politics, takes up clock cycles in your mind and in your soul that could be occupied with reflecting on the word of God. You can't do Psalm 1, taking delight in the law of the Lord day and night if day and night you're occupied with politics or social issues or intramural squabbles with people near or far. People get online and burn hours and I have done some of this.

You get into a debate or a discussion and you hope that there's some light that emanates from all the heat and that somebody who's on the fence might see reason and be drawn to the truth, might receive a love of the truth. But there are limits. If you get into it for its own sake and you just like the fray and the combat and the jousting and people spend hours and days online squabbling over stuff that is fruitless and it takes up space, it takes up time.

It could be better spent. We have to judge ourselves in this regard. Destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them.

I want you to notice something. If you don't mind marking your Bible, you can mark yours the way I have marked mine. Here in 2 Peter 2, verse one, it says there will be false teachers among you.

Underline among you. This is not outsiders. These are not rank unbelievers.

This is not like the beast and the false prophet who are attacking from the outside. This is not secular humanists or science lovers and evolutionists and the rest of it attacking from the outside. They are among you.

They are teachers among you, but they're false. And they bring in. You know, they don't push in.

They don't vault in. They don't launch in. They don't lob in destructive heresies.

They bring them in because they are inside. They are in the midst. When your dog's paws get muddy, you keep them outside.

If you open the door at the wrong time, they bring in mud, right? Because now they're inside with you. The point being, as you look at Peter's description of these individuals, they are believers. They are a part of the fellowship.

This is not a hostile takeover from the outside. This is quote, unquote, insurrection from within. They bring in destructive heresies because they come in.

They are a part of what is in. They bring in these heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them. These are blood bought, redeemed, saved believers.

Unbelievers are not bought. The reason we glorify God in our body is we were bought with a price, right? You were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body because you were bought.

People outside are not bought. Israel coming out of Egypt were purchased by the blood of the Passover lamb, symbolically through the firstborn. This redeems the entire household.

If you didn't have blood on the doorpost, you're not blood bought. The Lord who bought them and bring on themselves swift destruction. Swift means sudden.

They're not going to see it coming. It doesn't mean that as soon as they bring in a destructive heresy, they're destroyed. They're going to persist.

They're going to do this for a long period of time, but their destruction will come upon them at an hour of which they are unaware and it will be sudden. It's not swift, it's sudden. Many will follow their destructive ways.

They bring in destructive heresies and these heresies, these teachings become ways. See how it converts? I present this. I deceive people with it.

Now they're following these destructive ways because of whom the way of truth, they have not received a love of the truth. And so the way of truth, because these people bear the name and make the claim of believers, the way of truth will be blasphemed. How many people hate Christianity because of Christians? Their two-facedness, their hypocrisy, their lack of unity, their lack of understanding of scripture, the huge diversity.

Well, you can make the Bible say anything you want, right? The way of truth will be denigrated, blasphemed. By covetousness, they will exploit you. Their goal is self-gratification, self-aggrandizement.

With deceptive words, once again, deception. Their words, their teachings lead people into destructive ways. For a long time, their judgment has not been idle and their destruction does not slumber.

And you have to remember this in the same way you have to remember when you see the beast, Jesus is going to destroy this beast, although he's gonna prevail for a time. We see destructive heresies and destructive ways and the truth being blasphemed in the Christian church and in Christian circles. And we just have to remember, judgment is on the way for this, don't be fooled, don't be taken in, don't give up hope.

This judgment is not sleeping, but it hasn't come yet. Patience, this is the patience and the faith of the saints. God is gonna let this spin out its yarn for a time.

Skip down to verse five, just as we take our break here. If God did not spare the angels

who sinned and did not spare the ancient world, 2 Peter 2.5, God did not spare the ancient world, but did he destroy it as soon as he saw the wickedness was only evil all the day? The imaginations of men's hearts. There was a space of time and Noah and his family had to continue to endure that while the ark was a building.

As it was in the days of Noah, God did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah one of eight, a preacher of righteousness, a representative of righteousness. He was upright in his generation and it communicated, people knew it. And God brought the flood on the world of the ungodly.

We're gonna see Jesus talking about as it was in the days of Noah, very interesting. When you look at the description of the tribulation and Jesus' description that people are eating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage, it doesn't sound like the seals, trumpets and bowls as it was in the days of Noah. What does he mean? What is the application for all this? Look at 2 Peter 3.14-18. Therefore, beloved, knowing all of these things, and he's talking about up in chapter three, verse four, where's the promise of his parousia, his presence, his coming.

Verse 14, beloved, looking forward to these things, what should we do? What is our application? Looking at this first sign, false claims about Christ, deceptions, heresies, people practicing destructive ways, the truth being blasphemed, what should we do? Peter tells us, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by him in peace, without spot and blameless. Pursue peace with all men. Live quietly, work with your hands to the extent that it is up to you, live peaceably with all.

Be diligent to be found by him in peace. 14, one of John, let not your heart be troubled, be found in peace. Without spot, clean up your act.

Make sure you're not participating in destructive ways or accepting deceptions and falsehoods. Without spot, blameless. And consider, you're gonna see this stuff take place.

Peter spends all of chapter two talking about how bad it's going to get. And a chunk of chapter three, consider as you look at these things, that the long suffering, God not bringing judgment immediately and swiftly on these things. The judgment is not sleeping, but the judgment has not come.

Consider that this long suffering of our Lord is deliverance. This is salvation. Why is it we don't have to worry about repeating Lucifer's mistake in the perfection of heaven and choosing against God and being cast out and repeating the cycle of rebellion, evil, sin, and everything that has come as a result of that fall? How do we know we're not gonna make the mistake that Eve and Adam made in the garden of forgetting a part of God's truth and plucking the fruit and disobeying and starting something all over again? Is it because God is gonna prevent us from making any bad decisions? No.

This time of observation, of experience, of what evil is, what evil says, and what evil does, is salvation. This is a part of our salvation, is inoculation, a real, true, effective vaccination. We will be impervious to the allure of the desire or the thought of rebelling against God or choosing against God because God has already sorted everyone who has that inclination and has judged them and they're gone.

The eternal future is filled with people who have already been tested and who have already demonstrated, I know evil, I've seen evil, I've lived it, I was a victim of it, I practiced it until I repented and came to the Lord Jesus who gave me life and peace, righteousness, sanctification. I'll never go back to that. If you've ever lived in a really awful place or an awful circumstance, if you've really had a terrible job that you just hated, you dreaded waking up in the morning and having to go, would you ever go back and take that job again? Would you ever try to go move back to that place again? No, I've been there, I will never do, be, locate myself there again, ever.

You couldn't drag me with wild horses, there's no amount of money, that's how we will be. This long suffering of God is our salvation. It has a purpose, it has a point.

The most egregious pain that you can imagine in this life, losing children, outliving your children, suffering the agonies of terrible physical suffering, people that have been persecuted and even tortured for their faith and you think, well, that's just awful. It's a guarantee of deliverance, it is salvation. As also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, you probably got 2 Thessalonians 2. So the application for us, patience, as we observe the downward spiral of evil, as we see the corruption of truth, the blaspheming of the way of truth, the denigration and deception regarding the Lord Jesus Christ, patience, be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.

That's when we think about the falsehoods claimed about Christ and a lot of it is inside the church, inside the faith, among believers who are woefully deceived. Relax, be found in peace. You yourself, touch not the unclean thing, you're without spot and blameless.

You don't sin in response to sin. You don't get dragged down to that level and let them beat you with experience. Look at what Peter says, looking at these things, whether you're looking back or looking forward, be diligent, same word as study, to show yourself approved to God.

Be diligent, work at it. Effort at it. Well, let's pause here and take our break.

We've got six more signs to go. We'll pick up our pace a little bit when we come back from the break.