

The Road to Man Worship

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 24:15-22.

B. The end of the age is a chain of terrible events that culminate at the tribulation with the revelation of the Anti-Christ who assumes the position of deity.

II. Terrible rulers arise when men believe that they are in control of their own destinies.

A. The hour that man believes he is his own God will mark the time of the tribulation.

B. There are forces at work today restraining this philosophy so that it cannot take over as the dominant philosophy of the day.

C. Good is the dominant thinking of the day--evil must disguise itself as good in order to appear what it is not.

D. Man lives in rebellion but also in guilt.

III. Jesus reveals the truth that at the end of the age these evil ones will be revealed.

A. The condition of the human heart is shown to be wicked and unrepentant. (Revelation 6:12, 9:20-21)

B. Believers being the salt of the earth and the light of the world keep a restraint on the evil of the world.

1. The indwelling life of Jesus Christ gave disciples a different character.

2. They were preservatives pervading society.

C. The sign of the end of the age will be the awareness of deity in his life--the great restraint will be removed.

1. The good news is that the church will be taken out. (I Thessalonians 4:15)

2. There is comfort for the people of God--there is no comfort for the world outside.

3. The believer will meet the Lord and be transformed. (I Corinthians 15)

4. The Lord will be present with the church in glorified bodies.

5. The great tribulation can occur at any time--it is the Christian's hope that he will be redeemed in this.

6. The Christian must watch and not be distracted.

Application questions:

1. Do you agree that “good” is the general philosophy of the day? Explain the reason for this.

2. What does it mean that the “great restraint” will be removed at the end of the age?

3. What are ways that a believer can examine himself to make sure that good is not simply a philosophy that he follows but a reality in his heart?
