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the Lord is going to come back and that now we have a fourth motive for Christian service because we are ignorant of the day and the hour when He comes. 2 Thesalonians 2 in the English seems at first sight to contradict it sharply. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that you be not soon shaken in mind, or troubled, neither by spirit nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Now as it stands in the English we would have to think right away of two possibilities. Does this mean, "You are not to feel that the return of Christ might come right soon. You're not to think that. There are a lot of signs to come first, and don't let anybody excite you about the thought that it is coming right now. That is one possible interpretation, perhaps the most obvious, immediate interpretation of it in the English, and, of course, if that is an interpretation, then Paul seems sharply to contradict these dozen statements where He says, "Since you don't know the day nor the hour, be ready right now." It seems, at first sight, to contradict that, but even as it stands in the English, there is another possible interpretation of it which wouldn't contradict that. That would be this. Don't let yourself be troubled by anything that comes to you even if somebody says, "Paul said it", even if somebody misquotes me as saying, "Now is the sign that the day of Christ is at hand," because you are not to know when it will be. There is no way you can tell. It may be in the midst of tribulation; it may be in the midst of peace; you don't know when it is. Therefore, let nobody receive you in saying, "The return of Christ is just around the corner. You can't tell when it is around the corner. You can't say it is soon; you can't say it is far. Now those are the two possible interpretations of it from the English, but of course, we are dealing with it from the English, and we want to just note that this word "at hand" here is not the word usually translated "at hand" in the New Testament. It is " " which is used only seven times in the New Testament and is never translated "at hand" except in this one particular case. It is used in