



II THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

LESSON: A GROWING AWARENESS —April 7, 2019

In 1 Thessalonians Chapter one, Paul and his companions were faithful to bring encouragement to the Thessalonians in the midst of persecution. In 2nd Thessalonians, Paul explains the end times and the antichrist.

LESSON: I. ERROR CONCERNING THE DAY OF THE LORD 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-2

2nd –2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,— This is the 5th mention of Christ coming in the Thessalonian letters (1 Thess. 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, and 5:23). Paul pleads with the brethren making it clear that it's by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him that they make this request in verse 2 because there is a growing awareness. The "**coming of the Lord Jesus Christ**" is Jesus' Second Coming, and their "**gathering together to Him**" would be the Rapture of the church.

The Plea For Stability

2nd –2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. "**Shaken**" means to be tossed about, agitated, and shocked. The word "**troubled**" means a continued state of tension and nervousness. So, mistaken ideas about Christ's coming were confusing the Thessalonian Christians, and disrupting their lives. Paul tells them to let nothing shake their mind or trouble them about that day. Some person was claiming...

1. that a spirit (some angel or some vision) had revealed to him that the day of the Lord had begun;
2. that he had a special word, a special revelation from God that the day of the Lord had begun;
3. that he had either received or heard about a letter from Paul that said the day of the Lord was at hand;

It's easily understood why some of the believers would be shaken and troubled by these things.

The Day Of The Lord

Paul says two quick things that we must keep in mind as we look toward the "*Day of the Lord.*"

1. The point is striking: the believer is to focus upon the Lord's return and not upon the judgment of the Lord's Day. The "*Day of the Lord*" will affect the unbelievers, not believers. The believer is not appointed to receive the wrath of God; he is appointed to salvation. Therefore, he is not to fear the "*Day of the Lord*", he is to be looking to the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ.
2. Let nothing shake or trouble you about the "*Day of the Lord*": not a spirit, nor some so-called spiritual message, nor a writing from some so-called spiritual man.

II. CORRECTION CONCERNING THE DAY OF THE LORD 2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-12

The Apostasy / Antichrist

2nd –2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;— Let no man deceive you—watch for two significant events:

1. The **first event** that will launch the day of the Lord will be a great falling away of believers from God. The phrase "*falling away*" means apostasy, revolt, rebellion (against God). **The point is this:** before the "*Day of the Lord*"—before the terrible judgment of God can come upon the earth, there will be a great apostasy, a tragic turning away from God by millions. Man and his world will be so evil and sinful and so immoral and unjust—so much in rebellion against God—that Christ has to return and judge the world. Most of the people in the world will have gone so far that they will be beyond ever repenting.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



2. The **second event** that will launch the "*Day of the Lord*" will be the revelation of that man of sin—the son of perdition, that is, the antichrist himself. Note the following facts:
 - a. The antichrist will be revealed. He existed before his appearance.
 - b. The antichrist is the man of sin which means he is the embodiment of lawlessness or total rebellion against God; doing all he can to lead a total revolt against God; man, woman, and child.
 - c. The antichrist is the son of perdition which means that he will be so evil that he will be just like the son of doom and destruction, of the devil himself. He is doomed to destruction.
 - d. The antichrist is so evil a world leader; a mass deceiver and murderer of millions.

The antichrist is not Satan, but he is said to be a man who will be sent by the very working of Satan. There are many antichrists who have risen throughout history to carry on Satan's work with great severity. However, Paul is not speaking of these men who stand against Christ and His followers. Paul is speaking of the one who is to appear in the end time. He is to be Satan's instrument in the most severe way. How? - By being filled with Satan's spirit. In this Day of the Lord, it will signal occurrences of events that we will see and call "*signs of the times*"; those times will be a falling away from the truth of God and men will be lovers of themselves and lovers of lawlessness.

His Character

2nd – 2:4 **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he that is God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** There are five traits of the antichrist revealed in verses 3-4.

1. Man of sin
2. Son of perdition
3. Adversary, opposer of God
4. Exalter of himself
5. Claims to be God

The great system which God has revealed for human salvation and of those who would serve God in purity in the gospel of His Son, this man opposes and exalts himself above God. He wants to become the object of worship claiming such honors and such reverence even sitting in the temple of God claiming himself to be God. This can happen because the Word of God says it will happen.

His Danger

2nd – 2:5 **Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?**—This must be taught to the church. Paul had taught the Thessalonian believers all about the end time, the antichrist, the importance of the Lord's return, the Day of the Lord, the great apostasy, and the rise of the antichrist. People must be taught so that some can be saved and escape the things coming upon the earth.

His Revelation

2nd – 2:6 **And now ye know what witholeth that he might be reveled in his time.** There is to be an historical appearance of the antichrist in the world. Note the words "*revealed in his time.*" The time is set: he is going to actually appear upon the world scene. Right now, there is some "*power of restraint*" that holds back the antichrist and keeps him from appearing. However, the day is coming when "*the restraining power*" is to be taken out of the way; then the antichrist will be revealed to the world.

2nd – 2:7 **For the mystery of Iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.** "*The mystery of Iniquity*" (that is, lawlessness) is now at work in the world. The spirit of such a man is already in operation; evil is going on, but the man, not yet come who fully embodies that spirit has been hidden and restrained until the power that restrains evil is removed, *taken out of the way.*

His End

2nd – 2:8 **And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the sprit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.**

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1. Men will be allowed to do their own thing and live as they desire to live. The day is coming when that Wicked shall be revealed and men will get their wish and be left to themselves without God interfering. The antichrist poses no threat to the Lord Himself. However, at Christ's returns to earth He will quickly do away with him!
 - a. The Lord Jesus will slay the antichrist with "**the spirit of His mouth**" (Greek breath). What is "*the spirit of Jesus' "* mouth? It is the spirit of truth, holiness, and unlimited power. When Jesus speaks... When He rents the sky... Christ will speak the Word and the antichrist will be slain.
 - b. The Lord of glory will destroy the antichrist with "**the brightness of His coming.**" The whole idea of brightness is splendor, radiance, glory, and light. When Christ first appears, there will apparently (*in my mind*) be the energizing of a laser beam of glory zeroed in on the antichrist, and he shall be immediately destroyed by the radiance of the Lord's glory and light—quicker than we could blink an eye. (*An awesome and spectacular view*). Simply by showing Himself, the Lord will destroy the antichrist. Note; the word destroy does not mean annihilate, but to make inoperative; to make powerless; to end; to put a stop to his evil work.

His Work

2nd -2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,— Christ has His coming, and of course there is a counterfeit who is the antichrist who is used by Satan. Even him meant the lawless one; the antichrist is the representative who coming after the working (demonstrations and operations) of Satan.

The work of the antichrist, to carry on the activity of Satan upon the earth means...

- that he will be the very embodiment of Satan himself.
- that he will carry on all the lying power and signs and wonders of Satan.
- that he will carry out the very activity and work of Satan on earth.

The point to see is that Satan will have complete control over the life of the antichrist. He will be turning as many as he possibly can away from God. He will demonstrate power, signs and wonders...

- to bring peace to earth.
- to adequately grow and distribute the food so that all may have adequate provision.
- to solve the problems of adequate health coverage, full employment, homelessness, energy crunches, and the other problems of this world.

He will claim supernatural power. He will insist that religions and gods take a back seat to him and his government. He will institute the seat of imperial worship.

Perishing

2nd -2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; — The followers of the antichrist are those who are "**perishing**" (*apollumenois*); those who are in the process of perishing. Even while a follower of the antichrist lives on the earth, he is perishing. He is on the road to being lost. Therefore, he cannot see God nor the things of God. His face and eyes are not turned toward the gospel, but toward the world that perishes. The gospel is hid to him because he is perishing, because he is traveling the road of the lost. He is simply facing the wrong direction, looking away from the gospel.

- He will lead people away from the truth.
- He will mistreat people by lying to them.
- He will lead people to believe false ideas and untruths.
- He will exalt man, government, and science.
- He will cheat people out of the inheritance they could receive.
- He will misguide people and keep them from knowing peace, true inner peace, true assurance, security,

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PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



love, joy, and confidence—all qualities that build the very best of lives.

2nd – 2:10b ...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. The word "**received**"

(*edechantō*) means to welcome. They received not; they rejected the love of truth, and the result is that they are not saved. They are not lost because God want them to be, but because they chose to be. God offered them saving truth in the gospel of Christ and they refused it. The followers of the antichrist are deceived. There are always two factors involved in deception.

1. The deceit of the deceiver.
2. The willingness of the person to reject the truth and thereby succumbed to believe a lie.

Deceived

2nd – 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:—

God does not mislead people. A person is not deceived apart from his own will or against his will. A person is deceived only because he chooses to disbelieve God and His Word. The point is this: it is because people reject the truth of the gospel that they shall suffer strong delusion and believe the lie of the antichrist. "**Strong delusion**" (*energeian planes*) mean a working of error. In the end time, people will work error after error, sin after sin, evil after evil. They will become stronger and stronger in their sin, harder and harder. The great tragedy is that a person cannot reject Jesus Christ and expect things to stay as they are. What a warning to men!

Damned

2nd – 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The followers of the antichrist are damned—those who take pleasure in unrighteousness. The word "**damned**" (*krithisin*) means judged, condemned, punished. There are two reasons why the followers of the antichrist will be judged.

1. They will not believe the truth of the gospel. Therefore, if a person rejects the sacrificial death of Christ, he cannot expect God to overlook the dishonor done to His Son.
2. They will have pleasure in unrighteousness. They will be people who love their sins.
 - a. They will lust with their eyes.
 - b. They will lust with their flesh.
 - c. They will seek the pride of life.

Note the awful tragedy of all this: man is the total focus, and God is forgotten altogether. Man loves himself and himself alone. Therefore the judgment, condemnation, and punishment of man shall fall upon those who love their unrighteousness (sin). It is devastating to the unbeliever!

Now that we know that the end will come and the antichrist will be revealed, God's judgment will be on those who have rejected His truth. God's plan is not for man to perish, however, He gives people freedom to turn to him and choose salvation.

SUMMARY:

Evidently Paul received word that some of the Thessalonians had the impression that the "*Day of Christ*" had come, that is, it was near at hand. Mistaken ideas about Christ's coming and being gathered unto Him were confusing them and disrupting their lives. To reassure them he tells them not to be unsettled or alarmed, neither by spirit or Word (**2:1-2**).



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



Don't be deceived or swayed from their position. Christ will not come until there is a great falling away of believers from the faith and the man of sin is revealed. He is the son of perdition (hell) leading the rebellion. He has not been revealed yet. The son of perdition is the one opposing and exalting himself so proudly against all that's called God and is worshiped. He wants to be looked at as God sitting in the temple of God and claiming himself as God. Paul told them to remember when he spoke to them of such things. And now they know how he's being restrained by God's power and that he would be revealed at God's appointed time. For right now the secret of wickedness and lawlessness is already at work; men allowed to do their own thing, until the one who restrains the antichrist removes the restraint. Then the wicked one will be uncovered and will appear. ¹The coming of the lawless one is further described, whose coming will be according to the demonstrations of Satan with all power, signs, and lying wonders. He will deceive those who do not have a love for the truth. Indeed, God will also send a strong delusion to those who do not love the truth, that they might believe the lie and be condemned for taking pleasure in unrighteousness instead of believing the truth (**2:3-12**).

APPLICATION:

Just because you are chosen and called, you still have to do something. Even though knowing the "Day of the Lord" is coming and what it will incur, leaves us with one sure source of hope. It's not depended upon feelings or what someone else said they could do, a vision, or special revelation. It's coming. Be ready for the shaking!

