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Faith Bible Church  
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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

**Personal Study of the Bible-52**  
**2 Thessalonians 2: The Devil and Love**

Read 2 Thessalonians 2.

“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the **apostasy** comes first, and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the **son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.** 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. 7 For **the mystery of lawlessness** is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the **activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness** for those who perish, because they did **not receive the love of the truth** so as to be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. 13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, **because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.** 14 And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brethren, **stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.** 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has **loved us** and given us eternal comfort and good **hope** by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.”

Over the next several lessons or weeks, I would like for you to unpack truths in this passage that are absolutely critical to your spiritual life for 2014 (and as long as you remain alive on this earth). What I have highlighted in red deals with Satan and man’s suppression of truth, whereas what is in green covers spiritual dynamics and virtue necessary for vibrant spiritual life and victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

**Satan.** In studying Satan there are two dangerous extremes to avoid: 1) unhealthy occupation with him (characteristic of Charismatics who tend to blame all of their problems on Satan) and 2) ignorance of his schemes, read 2 Corinthians 2:11. In addition to descriptions of

Satan's activity in the Antichrist in the above Thessalonian passage, look up the following passages and list the various titles given to Satan that describe his character/activity:

Ezek 28:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ezek 28:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isa 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isa 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isa 14:14 \_\_\_\_\_ (his ultimate goal)  
Matt. 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 12:51 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 16:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 17:15; 1 John 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Cor. 11:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Cor. 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Eph. 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Pet. 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Tim. 3:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. 12:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. 12:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_

With these titles and activities in mind, think about Satan's activity and plan of attack on the Thessalonians. Read 1 Thess. 3:5. What does that tell you about Satan's overarching attack on you and your loved ones? What virtues have you noticed throughout both Thessalonian letters that bring Paul so much joy? What virtues have we been studying of late in Romans 12? Theological faith, hope, and love! This is what Satan is always attacking in your spiritual life. If he can destroy or denigrate your theological faith (absolute convicting reality in the supernatural truths of God in Scripture), theological hope (eager anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises and of being with Him), and theological love (seeing the goodness of God to such an extent that you lovingly give yourself to Him), then he has conquered you—at least as far as your temporal daily walk with the Lord. Recall that Paul's concern over the Thessalonians was not about their temporal life issues. It was all about their theological faith, hope, and love.

**Notice the love of God in verse 16 of our passage.** This love of God is not the general love that God has for the entire human race, read John 3:16 and Matt. 5:45. This love is the special love He has for believers—a love that is eternal and unbreakable. God loves believers with a love that never diminishes or changes based on the believer's status, read Romans 8:31-39.

God's desire for every believer is for him to grow in the supernatural theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. We see this not only in the Thessalonian letters, but throughout the entire Word of God. Most, if not all, of this year at FBC we will be unpacking the realism of theological faith, hope, and love—what they are and how much we need them. They are not found in the world. They must come directly from God, and while they are available to all believers in grace, they are unavailable to any believer who is suppressing any truth—and every believer still retains proclivities to suppress truth that he does not like. I am blessed to be pastor

of so many saints at FBC who have demonstrated a real love for truth by working through any temptations to suppress Realism.

I have much to say about the Realism of love. For now, I would like for you to read 1 Cor 13:4-7 and fill in the blanks (NASB):

Love is p \_\_\_\_\_ , 4.  
Love is k \_\_\_\_\_ , 4.  
Love is not j \_\_\_\_\_, 4.  
Love does not b \_\_\_\_\_, 4.  
Love is not a \_\_\_\_\_, 4.  
Love does not act u \_\_\_\_\_, 5.  
Love does not seek its o \_\_\_\_\_, 5.  
Love is not p \_\_\_\_\_ , 5.  
Love does not take into account a w \_\_\_\_\_, 5.  
Love does not rejoice in u \_\_\_\_\_ , 6.  
Love rejoices with the t \_\_\_\_\_. 6  
Love \_\_\_\_\_ all things, 7.  
Love \_\_\_\_\_ fails, 8.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him **in love**:

*In 'Ehyeh,  
Pastor Don Hargrove*