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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

## **Personal Study of the Bible-66**

### **2 Thessalonians 2- Antichrist is Coming and the World will get Worse**

We have noted several principles in the second chapter of Second Thessalonians related to the coming of the Antichrist. In this lesson, let's look at the Thessalonian situation along with more spiritual principles regarding whole truth. Read 2 Thessalonians 2 (again) in one setting. It is very important for every believer to read and reread Scripture for himself. It is important to be grounded in the Word of God so that if an issue comes up, your mind goes to the Word instead of what a pastor teaches. If the subject of the Antichrist comes up, your mind should immediately think of certain passages, like 2 Thessalonians 2. Comprehension of the Word of God is a means of accessing phase two grace, which is necessary for true spiritual maturity.

Note in verses 1-2 that Paul mentions that the Thessalonians were being distressed. Because of the great persecution some had begun to think that they were passing through the Great Tribulation of which Christ spoke as the terrible time which should precede His second coming, and that the Day of the Lord was already present.

The coming again of Christ to the earth is the great future event that the Church has looked forward to since Christ ascended from the Mount of Olives and the two in white apparel said that this same Jesus would so come in like manner as He went into heaven (read Acts 1:11). It is not hard to see how this great event could overshadow all other events and cause some confusion regarding other prophecy. Paul wants to assure them that they were not in the Great Tribulation as he tells them that the Lord will not come in the Second Advent until a massive a\_\_\_\_\_y comes first, and the man of l\_\_\_\_\_s is revealed (2 Thess. 2:3). This lawless one will display Himself as being G\_d (2:4). His opposition to God and Christ is depicted in his title "Antichrist."

When Christ comes, He will find the Antichrist ruling with all power and s\_\_\_\_s and false wonders (2:9). It will be a time marked with unprecedented deception because people did not receive a love for the t\_\_\_\_h (2:10); read Matthew 24:24. The Antichrist will counterfeit Christ, establish himself in Jerusalem: the holy p\_\_\_\_e (Matt. 24:15), make war with the s\_\_\_\_s (Rev. 13:7), will be w\_\_\_\_\_d as God (2 Thess. 2:4), perform amazing miracles (2:9), will work for only 3 ½ years (Rev. 13:5-6), and will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20).

In light of verses 3-12 (read again), can we expect the world to get better? Today I watched a news clip of our Vice President on *The View* where he was asked if he was going to run for President. He indicated that he is uniquely qualified to continue Obama's vision of "world peace." It is inherent among liberals, especially when they have power, to live in delusion about the goodness of man and his ability to bring in utopia. The mystery of iniquity that is a\_\_\_\_\_y at work (2 Thess. 2:7) has thoroughly deceived many men and women in our government as well as the society who put those "leaders" in office. They are totally unaware of the divine purpose of government, which is to punish the evil and protect the law abiding citizen;

read 1 Peter 2:14; Rom. 13:4. The purpose of government is not to create a welfare state or attempt to achieve world peace.

In light of the bad news regarding increasing numbers of people moving into apostasy and wickedness, what should our attitude be? Has the gospel failed? Will the plan of God fail? No! Along with the picture that Paul gives us regarding the wicked state of the world, he also informs us that when Christ will come He will find a faithful remnant (Rom. 9:27-29; cf., Rev. 7:2-8). Christ will also find the Antichrist carrying out satanic plans and so He will s\_\_\_\_\_y him with the breath of His mouth and bring to an e\_d by the appearance of His coming (2 Thess. 2:8).

So we know that things on earth are going to continue to get worse as people increasingly do not b\_\_\_\_\_e the truth, but take pleasure in w\_\_\_\_\_s (2:12). All one has to do is look around not only in society but look at how many modern Christians have no desire to attend a Bible teaching church, or look at how many Bible believers are only interested in those Bible truths which are useful to them; instead of following God and the Truth that God has revealed, most are only interested in a God which makes them feel good about themselves. As a matter of fact, God and His Truth are not the goals for many, if not most believers; rather, God and His Word are mere means of making their lives better. How terribly sad☹ It is all about them—not God! Not Truth! Certainly not the whole truth.

In light of increasingly difficult times for the church age, what does Paul tell believers their attitudes should be regarding the plan of God and each other in verses 13-17? What should they be mindful of? What is Paul's desire for them? Believers should remember that God has chosen them for s\_\_\_\_\_n through sanctification by the Spirit and f\_\_\_\_\_h in t\_\_\_\_\_h (2:13), that they may gain the g\_\_\_\_\_y of Jesus Christ (14), and that they would stand firm in what they were taught (15). Note Paul's prayer for them in the last two verses of this chapter: that they would receive the supernatural virtues of comfort and strength needed in every good w\_\_\_\_\_k and w\_\_\_\_\_d.

These believers were a growing and productive group of believers. They did not see God and doctrine as a means to an end; rather, God through His truth was the end, the goal, the summum bonum of life. This makes all of the difference. There is nothing like a believer who really wants to learn the whole truth, total truth, in pursuit of God. One of the greatest joys of my life as a pastor-teacher is to watch in great delight as I scatter whole truths of God and Reality to God's people at FBC and watch them receive it and bear much fruit (sanctification: focus on the greatness of God as revealed in the whole truth –instead of focusing on God merely, or even mostly, to solve a problem, i.e. to give them more “peace and prosperity” in their earthly kingdom building projects).

2 Thessalonians 2:16 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.

*In 'Ehyeh,  
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