

2 THESSALONIANS SESSION 2

Review: Last week we went through chapter 1 of 2 Thessalonians. We talked about the differences between the rapture of the church and the second coming of Christ. Paul encourages this church because of the persecution that they are going through and shares with them that the persecutors will suffer the Lord's vengeance when he comes again. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 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. *In this chapter, Paul gets right to the matter at hand. There was an apparent forgery of his name to a letter he did not write which was about the day of the Lord. These people were all upset because they had been told that they had missed the rapture and were in the tribulation. They believed it because of the afflictions they were going through. Now we beseech(ask with urgency) you, brethren, concerning the rapture of the church and our gathering together unto Him. Don't be shook up, or alarmed, neither by spirit(so-called prophetic revelation), nor by word(message given), nor by letter as from us(alleged to be), to the effect that the day of the Lord has already come.*

2 Thessalonians 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; *Paul doesn't want these people to be deceived concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ so he gives them three things that must happen before the Christ comes and is revealed to the world. The rapture is not discussed at all in this letter because it was in the previous letter. That day will not come except these things happen first:*

- **A falling away** – The Greek word is *apostasia* which is where we get our English word *apostasy*. Apostasy is the willful abandonment or rejection of faith in God, particularly a decisive turn away from Christ or the teachings of the gospel. The Holy Spirit spoke very definitely about this to Paul and he wrote about it to Timothy **1 Timothy 4:1-3** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. According to a 2025 Pew Research Center study, 17.1% of adults under 55 in the U.S. who were raised Christian have left the faith. One study found that about one-third of those raised Christian shed that identity by age 30.

- **The Antichrist be revealed** – Here Paul calls him the man of sin and the son of perdition. It's important to notice that he must be revealed because he will be hidden. He rises in the tribulation after the church has been caught up with Christ...no where in scripture is the church told to be on the lookout for him, but we are repeatedly told to watch for Jesus Christ. People are wasting their time trying to figure out who he is or accusing people of being the antichrist. The Antichrist will not be nor can he be an American president!

2 Thessalonians 2:4-5 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? *He will oppose and exalt himself over anything that anyone worships. That means Jesus Christ, Allah, Buddha etc...he will not only be against them but elevate himself over them. He will not begin that way but be an embracer of all faiths and unify the worshipers under this message "We're all children of God". The antichrist is revealed when he sits in the temple of God and proclaiming to be God. Jesus spoke of this -* **Matthew 24:15-16** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: **Matthew 24:21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. *This teaches us that the temple will be rebuilt for a third time, the man of sin will go into the holy of holies and declare himself to be God, he will end their sacrifices and demand worship. This event begins the great tribulation...the whole period of 7 years will be tribulation, the last 3 and a half years will be great tribulation.*

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. *This is the third sign that must happen before the second coming of Christ. Paul here is talking about a restrainer, that's what he means by withholdeth...literally holding back. The mystery of iniquity is that since the fall, lawlessness has been permitted to exist and fight against the purposes of God. Abel was a righteous man but was murdered by his brother. Noah and his family were spared in the flood, yet Ham was one the people saved. He committed an unspeakable act of perversion against his father that led to his line being cursed. Satan always has people to work through. These verses reveal that Satan is*

always working to bring forth his man of sin, but there is a restrainer holding him back so that he can only be revealed at the proper time. I believe that restrainer to be the Holy Spirit. When the church is raptured off the earth, the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way...not taken out. That means He will stop restraining the evil imaginations and desires of mankind. If you think it's bad now, you haven't seen anything yet.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: *Here Paul calls him that Wicked...the antichrist has many titles in scripture. He is revealed after the restrainer stops restraining. Not only does the Holy Spirit restrain people from doing as bad as they might do, but He also restrains the spirit world's ability to interact with the natural world...but then He won't stop that either. What do I mean by this? Satan entered a serpent in the garden to have a conversation with Eve. Angels left their habitation to come to earth, take wives and have children which produced the giants. The men of Sodom wanted to have intimate relations with the angels that came to speak to Lot. Jude calls this going after strange flesh – Jesus said that it would be as the days of Noah and Lot when he comes the second time.*

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. When the Holy Spirit stops restraining, the kingdom of darkness will be permitted to produce miracles so that the masses may be deceived. It is the consequence of not receiving the love of the truth and being saved. When you will not have truth, God will let you be lied to. The antichrist will deceive the world through the power of Satan. He will worship Satan in private until he is revealed then he will lead the world to worship him publicly(the mark of the beast). Which is what Satan has been after since his fall “I will be like the Most High” and he tempted Christ in the wilderness to worship him.*

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. *People who have been exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and reject Him, will be lost forever after the rapture has taken place. These verses teach that because they didn't receive the truth when they had opportunity, God will send them strong delusion(He will confuse their minds) so that they readily believe the lie that will deceive the world during that time. They will be damned because they will choose the false Christ instead of the real one. Why don't people respond to the gospel when they hear it? Because they have pleasure in unrighteousness – they love their sin!*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Paul turns back to this church and gives thanks that from the beginning, God chose to reveal the truth to them and that they received it and believed the truth. They received Christ by Paul's preaching and therefore be spared all of this horror he is talking about.*

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work. *Stand firm, do not be moveable! Hold the traditions taught by apostolic authority and the words of Jesus Christ. Be comforted by the everlasting comfort that the Father and the Son have given us because they love us which is in the Holy Spirit that ever abides with us.*