

## THE END TIMES – PART 1

--2<sup>nd</sup> THESSALONIANS 2:1-5--

### INTRODUCTION:

Chapter one of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians was all about encouragement as Paul sought to encourage the believers of Thessalonica as they had come under intense persecution. In chapter two Paul turns to a doctrinal issue that he must address due to the confusion that had been brought on by the growing persecution and the teaching of false teachers which had caused the believers to lose their hope and joy because of their misunderstanding of the end times. Paul had already spoken to them concerning both the Rapture and the Day of the Lord in his first letter, but now just a few months later, they have become confused again, fearing they have missed the Rapture and were in the Day of the Lord. Paul wants to reassure them by clearing up this error.

Paul is going to do this by speaking of a world leader who is coming and who will make the other evil leaders of history pale in comparison both in the extent of his power and the wickedness of his person. He will be the most brutal, evil, powerful man ever to walk the earth.

- I. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RAPTURE? (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:1-2)
  - a. The Thessalonian believers had \_\_\_\_\_ what Paul had taught them about the end times when he was with them.
  - b. Often those who teach on the end times do so to gratify curiosity, but this was not Paul's purpose, his purpose was that of a pastor trying to \_\_\_\_\_ confused Christians.
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ that the Thessalonian believers were having is that they were confused in regard to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gathering of believers together to Him.
  - d. In verse two Paul voices his \_\_\_\_\_ for the Thessalonian believers.
  - e. The coming of \_\_\_\_\_ teachers to Thessalonica had only reinforced the believers' confusion.
  - f. This false teaching on the Rapture and the Day of the Lord had a dreadful \_\_\_\_\_ on the already frazzled Thessalonians due to the severe persecution they were suffering.

- g. To end this deception and the confusion it had caused, Paul needed to \_\_\_\_\_ the lies of the false teachers, and to calm and put to \_\_\_\_\_ the fears of the Thessalonians.

### II. DO NOT BE DECEIVED (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3a)

- a. Anxiety and fear are often the results of \_\_\_\_\_, and that was true for the Thessalonians. (Matthew 24:4; Ephesians 4:14)
- b. Paul's exhortation to the Thessalonians is a strong \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Deception concerning the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus carries with it serious practical \_\_\_\_\_ for those who believe the deception. (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:11, 14; 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:2-3)
- d. The Lord's coming to receive us to Himself and a correct understanding and hope of this not only produces accountability and purity but also \_\_\_\_\_. (Revelation 3:10)

### III. DO NOT FORGET (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-5)

- a. As we come into our third point this morning, which is closely related to my second point, it must be understood that forgetting the \_\_\_\_\_ opens up a believer to deception.
- b. What Paul writes here in verses three and four is truth that the Thessalonian believers had \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The word translated "\_\_\_\_\_" means "revolt" or "rebellion." (Acts 21:21; Joshua 22:22; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 29:19; Jeremiah 2:19)
- d. Paul is not using the word in the \_\_\_\_\_ sense (defection from Gospel truth).
- e. Paul identifies the apostasy by giving us the title of the lead character connected to the apostasy, Paul identifies this person as the "man of \_\_\_\_\_."
- f. The Greek word translated "\_\_\_\_\_" and the verb tense it is in points to a definite time when this man will appear.
- g. He is none other than the final \_\_\_\_\_.
- h. Paul further describes this man as the "son of \_\_\_\_\_."

- i. Only one other person in Scripture shares this name “son of destruction” with the Antichrist. That person is \_\_\_\_\_  
Iscaiot.
- j. As horrid as that apostasy was, it does not even compare to the act of future apostasy the man of lawlessness, the Antichrist will \_\_\_\_\_.
- k. At the beginning the man of lawlessness will seem to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of religion.
- l. Antichrist will exalt himself by taking a seat in the temple of God displaying himself as \_\_\_\_\_.

#### CONCLUSION:

As those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, believing that His death on the cross paid the penalty for sin, and His resurrection is proof that God’s wrath against sin was satisfied on our behalf, we have no reason to fear judgment. Paul told the Romans in Romans 8:1, “*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” (Romans 8:1, NASB95) Paul told the Thessalonian believers in his first letter in chapter 5, verse 4, “*But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;*” (1 Thessalonians 5:4, NASB95) We who have received salvation are waiting for Jesus to return from heaven and gather us to Himself as Paul spoke of in the first verse of our passage. We look for the true Christ, not the Antichrist. Only those who are deceived and forgetful risk losing their confident hope and expectant joy of Christ’s return before the Day of the Lord.