

I. The Man of Sin Destroyed (v 8)**A. Formal Destruction in History**

- 1) Christ will destroy Antichrist (Lk 2:14; 1 Jn 2:2; Dt 4:7-8; 1 Jn 3:8b; Lk 10:17-18; Heb 2:14b; Rom 4:25; 1 Cor 15:25, 28)
 - 2) This destruction will be a consumption
 - a) It will be gradual
 - b) Why gradual instead of all at once? (Gen 15:6; 1 Sam 18:7)
 - 3) This destruction will be wrought by the Holy Spirit
 - a) Not by the sword of man or magistrate (Isa 49:23)
 - b) Not by natural calamity
 - c) But the Spirit of the living God (Zech 4:6)
 - 4) The means of this destruction will be by the preaching of the Word of God (Rev 19:11-16; Eph 6:17)
 - 5) *Use*, This destruction is true not only of Antichrist (Papacy) but all antichrists.
- B. Final Destruction at Christ's Return, which is the conclusion of History**
- 1) The final destruction at Christ's coming (Rev 20:7-10)
 - 2) The brightness of His coming (2 Thes 1:7b-10)

II. The False Church Destroyed (vv 9-12).**A. The Root of their Destruction****B. The Fruits of their Destruction (see 2 Thes 1:8)**

- 1) *They should believe the lie . . . did not believe the truth*
- 2) *But had pleasure in unrighteousness*

C. The Destruction of the False Church

- 1) Initial stage — *God will send them a strong delusion* (Rom 1:24-27)
 - a) The depravity of their delusion (Jer 6:14-15)
 - b) The determination of their delusion (1 Sam 5:2-4)

c) The defensiveness of their delusion (1 Kgs 22:8)

2) Final Condemnation

- a) Judgment upon the False Church (Rev 18:2, 5-6)
- b) Salvation for the True Church (Isa 40:1-2)

III. Uses from the Text

- A. Let us heed the warnings and tremble at the threatenings of God's Word.**
- 1) Beware apostasy (Rev 3:7a)
 - 2) We are to consider the destruction of false churches in the past (Jer 7:12)
 - 3) Beware the sinful desire to not want Babylon destroyed (Gen 19:26).
 - 4) Beware the sinful nostalgia of Babylon after it is destroyed (Ex 16:3).
 - 5) Beware the sin of trying to be a moderate between the two, Christ and Antichrist (1 Kgs 18:21)
 - 6) Beware complacency (Amos 6:1a)
 - 7) Beware complacency for our children (Judges 3:1-2)
 - 8) Beware the temptation to run away in battling against Antichrist and antichrists (Eph 6:12b-13).
- B. Let us heed the exhortation to faith and obedience from God's Word.**
- 1) Love Christ
 - 2) Love the truth — What does it mean to love the truth? There must be: (a) Affection for the truth; (b) Attention to the truth; and, (c) Application of the truth.
 - 3) Walk in godliness
 - 4) Be willing to suffer (Rev 12:11)
 - 5) Proclaim Christ (1 Cor 2:2)
 - 6) Have an unashamed confidence in the Gospel (Rom 1:16-17)
 - 7) Wait upon the Lord, looking to our being with Christ and His coming.