

## "In The Fullness Of Time"

2 Thessalonians 2:1 - 5

March 16, 2014

### III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

B. The World Is Currently Under The Dominion Of The Man Of Lawlessness Who Promotes Lawlessness (vs. 1 – 12)

#### 1. Knowledge Of The Gospel Of Christ Preserves The Believer During Times Of Falsehood & Deception, (vs. 1 – 5)

**Message Emphasis:** Many today do not realize that the "Man of Lawlessness" is already at work and openly deceiving those who are not grounded in their belief in the Gospel. We must hold fast to the teaching that Christ will complete all things at His return and until then, we must not be shaken, alarmed or deceived.

*Extreme views in both directions have been stated with regard to the current subject. Some forty years ago, when the Pauline authorship of this Epistle was widely disputed and denied, it was said that "the genuineness of this Letter, like that of the First, is practically uncontested" (N.T. Commentary for English Readers by Various Writers. Edited by C. J. Ellicott). Even at the present time, when doubts and denials are very much less general, that would be a rather exaggerated statement. On the other hand, so lately as 1912, Schweitzer declared that "the Pastoral Epistles and the Second Letter to the Thessalonians profess to be written by the Apostle, but contain not a single thought which is characteristic of his teaching" (Paul and his Interpreters, p. 80). That is a more surprising statement than the other. One of the objections brought against the Epistle is that it is too Pauline and looks like the laboured production of an imitator. In these notes passages are pointed out which are thoroughly characteristic of the Apostle's teaching and manner of expressing himself: and, although there are some things for which parallels cannot be found in the other Epistles, yet there is nothing which can be shown to be contradictory of what is found there. ~ Alfred Plummer, 1918*

#### 1) Our Lord Has Promised To Come For Us. That Promise Has Not Changed, It Is Only Being Distorted, (vs. 1 – 2)

*Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him,*

*What does God say about this?*

- We are not to doubt what we know - we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken (Aor.Pas.Inf) *in mind*
- We are not to be fearful about what will happen - or alarmed (Pre.Pas.Inf) ,
- We are not to trust new revelation that is out of step with the Gospel - either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us,
- We are to trust that our Lord's return is by His ordination - to the effect that the day of the Lord has come (Per.Act.Ind).
- We are to behave in keeping with what Christ has said - 3 Let no one [deceive] you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion [comes] first, and the man of lawlessness is [revealed] (Aor.Subj. 3x),

#### 2) The Distortions Of Christ's Promise Are Being Perpetrated By The One Who Wishes To Take God's Place, (vs. 4)

*the son of destruction, 4 who opposes (Pres.Act.Part) and exalts (Pres.Pas.Part) himself against every so-called*

*(Pres.Pas.Part) god or object of worship,*

*Doubting Christ opens the door for trusting someone else*

- We must see the fraud for who he is - so that he takes his seat (Aor.Act.Inf) *in the temple of God, proclaiming* (Pres.Act.Part) *himself to be God.* *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit."* (Isaiah 14:12-15, ESV)

#### 3) We Need Not Fall To These Distortions Because We Have Already Been Told The Truth, (vs. 5)

- We cannot grow weary of being reminded of these things - 5 Do you not remember that when I was (Pres.Act.Part) *still with you I told* (Impf.Act.Ind) *you these things?* *God speaks these things for our own good; why not trust it?*

*"It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,"* (Revelation 13:6-7, ESV)

## \*\*\*What Must I Do To Be Saved? \*\*\*

**Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ can you truly rise above the deception that causes us to doubt God's goodness to His children.

2. Perseverance Is Necessary Because God Has Purposed To Fully Reveal The Mystery In Due Season, (vs. 6 – 8)
3. Falsehood & Deception Are A Present Reality To Bring The Destruction Of Those Who Don't Believe, (vs. 9 – 12)

- A. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 – 17)
- B. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 – 18)