

Women's Summer Bible Study - - - II Thessalonians 2: 1-12 - - - July 22, 2021

- I. **Clarity: II Thessalonians 2: 1-2** “Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us **clarify some things** about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. 2 Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us.”
 - A. **Clarify - I Thessalonians 4: 13-18 (Read it) V. 18** “18 So encourage each other with these words.” We need to change our mindset. Repetition and clarification are reasonable and necessary. (Parents, husbands, coworkers, children, teenagers and toddlers need to be willing to give clear instructions and repeat those instructions and clarify our intentions.)
 - B. **Do not be easily shaken or alarmed - - - II Peter 3: 8-10** “But you must not forget this **one thing, dear friends**: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. **No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed**, but wants everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.
 - C. **John 14: 1-2** “**Don't let your hearts be troubled**. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home.^[a] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?”

II. Lawlessness: II Thessalonians 2: 3-4 “Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the **man of lawlessness is revealed**—the one who brings destruction. 4 He will **exalt himself** and **defy everything** that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, **claiming** that he himself is God.”

- A. **“Do not be deceived . . .”** (This phrase occurs several times in the New Testament)
 1. Luke 21: 18 “many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He*,’
 2. Romans 7: 11 “Sin deceives”
 3. I Corinthians 6: 9 “Do not be deceived, sexually immoral will not inherit the Kingdom.”
 4. I Corinthians 15: 33 “Do not be deceived: **“Evil company corrupts good habits.”**
 5. Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked.”

6. James 1: 16-17 “**Do not be deceived, my beloved** brethren. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

B. Matthew 24: 12 “Because of **lawlessness**, the love of **most** will grow cold.”

III. Remember: overcome deception: II Thessalonians 2: 5 “Don’t you **remember that I told you** about all this when I was with you?”

A. What does the Bible tell us to ‘Remember?’ A few things:

1. Ex. 20:8 “**Remember** the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”
2. I Chronicles 16: 15 “**Remember** His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations . . .”
3. Psalm 105:5 “**Remember** His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth . . .”
4. Ecl. 12: 1 “**Remember** now **your Creator** in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”
5. Habakkuk 3: 2 “O Lord, I have heard Your speech *and* was afraid; O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make *it* known; **In wrath remember mercy.**”
6. Malachi 4: 4 “**Remember** the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *With the* statutes and judgments.”
7. Luke 17: 32 “**Remember** Lot’s wife.”
8. John 15: 20 “**Remember** the word that I said to you, ‘**A servant is not greater than his master.**’ If they persecute Me, they will also persecute you. If they keep My word, they will keep yours also.”
9. Acts 20: 35 “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And **remember** the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**’ ”
10. **II Timothy 2: 8-9** “**Remember that Jesus Christ**, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but **the Word of God is not chained.**”

B. C.R. I Thessalonians 5: 1-10 (Read it).

IV. Holy Spirit restrains: II Thessalonians 2: 6-8 “6 And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes.” For this **lawlessness** is already at work

secretly, and it will remain secret until the **one who is holding it back** steps out of the way. 8 Then the **man of lawlessness** will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.”

- A. **The Holy Spirit is the restraining agent.** But the Holy Spirit resides in believers, so the restraining agent is present in the church individually and corporately.

I John 4:1-4 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess ^[a]that Jesus ^[b]Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, **because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**”

- B. **Matthew 10: 26** “**26 Therefore do not fear them.** For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.”

Time is the great revealer and Truth teller, that is why we, as Christians, need to be patient and not fear, for the Lord reveals all truth in His timing.

- C. **II Peter 3: 1-14** - - - This is a longer passage to read, we won't read it here, but just know that Peter, just like Paul, emphasizes the importance of Grace, Love and faithfulness.

V. Counterfeits deceive: II Thessalonians 2: 9-12 “ This man will come to do the work of Satan with **counterfeit power and signs and miracles.** 10 He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. 11 So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. 12 Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.”

- A. **Counterfeit power,** counterfeit signs and counterfeit wonders . . . How do people whose job it is to detect counterfeit money prepare to do that work?

B. **Did you catch what it says in verse 10??** “To fool those who are on their way to destruction . . . ” So, this to me means that if I am convinced that my destiny is Heaven and that I am on the path to salvation, not destruction, then I have nothing to fear.

C. Our “safe place.” You will never be condemned for believing the Truth of Jesus Christ. You may be ridiculed, you may be left out of certain things, you may be teased or ridiculed, but by God’s Grace and because of God’s Grace, you will never be condemned, because the Bible promises:

1. **In Isaiah 28: 16** “Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem,

a firm and tested stone.

It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on.

Whoever believes need never be shaken.” (disgraced, nor condemned)

2. **And again in Romans 10: 9-10** “ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your **faith that you are saved.**”

VI. Faithfulness over Fruitfulness.