

THE END TIMES – PART 2

--2nd THESSALONIANS 2:6-17--

INTRODUCTION:

In this morning's passage Paul gives us further information about Antichrist, speaking more about his revealing, giving the details of his destruction, and of his power and influence. Paul then will speak of those who will live on the earth during that time and the influence that Antichrist will have over them. Finally, he will end the chapter in gratitude to God as he declares the security of the Thessalonian believers.

I. THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (2nd Thessalonians 2:6-10)

- a. Paul exhorted the Thessalonian believers in verse 5 to _____ the things that he had taught them.
- b. Paul begins verse six with the words, "*And you _____ what restrains him now...*" (2 Thessalonians 2:6a, NASB95) (Job 42:4)
- c. God's _____ is perfect, and He will not allow Antichrist to be revealed until all whom He has chosen for redemption from eternity past up to that time are brought into His kingdom. (Galatians 4:4)
- d. In verse seven Paul writes, "*he who _____...*" which tells us that the force which is restraining the Antichrist is exerted by a person, the Holy Spirit. (Romans 1:18-28)
- e. Paul for the third time in this chapter states that the lawless one will be _____ when the Holy Spirit removes His restraining force. (Daniel 7:26; Revelation 19:20; Isaiah 11:4)
- f. Antichrist will rule from the _____ of the Tribulation until Christ's return—1260 days or 42 months both of which equal three and a half years.
- g. Because of his power, his _____ will reach around the globe, using all the deception of wickedness Antichrist will lead his followers to destruction and ruin.

II. THE UNBELIEVING WORLD (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

- a. Paul tells us that unbelievers will be deceived by the Antichrist and perish because they did not _____ the truth so as to be saved. (John 3:19-20)
- b. Because the unredeemed did not receive the love of the truth they do not _____ God and do not _____ the gospel of the Lord Jesus. (Proverbs 5:22)

IV. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

- a. Paul ends this chapter with encouragement for believers, words that are to eliminate _____ of the future by understanding the great doctrine of salvation.
- b. Paul's readers and all believers do not have to fear losing their salvation, because God's _____ of them is final and irreversible. (John 6:37-40, 44; 10:27-29)
- c. This glorious truth caused Paul to always give _____ to God for the Thessalonian believers, knowing that they were brethren beloved by the Lord.
- d. Paul reminds them that not only had God chosen but He also _____ them through Paul's declaration of the gospel to them.
- e. Based on God's sovereign plan of salvation, there was no need for the Thessalonian believers to be anxious about their salvation, doubtful about the Lord's return, or _____ that they were in the Day of the Lord's judgment on the ungodly.
- f. After assuring them of their salvation and their future glory, Paul exhorts them to _____ firm and to hold to the traditions which they were taught. (Jude 3)
- g. Paul after exhorting them to stand firm and hold fast to the truth, ends this chapter with a _____, praying that God would comfort and strengthen the church.

CONCLUSION:

Know that you are loved by God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have put your faith in Christ for salvation, then know that you are chosen by God, called by the effectual calling of the Spirit through the gospel that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stand firm in your faith and hold fast to the truth of God's

Word by the comfort and strength given to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Encourage one another and build up one another as we look with confident hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are here and have never put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then I urge you to do so today. The Lord Jesus Christ could return for the church at any time, and we must be ready to meet Him in the clouds. You can be ready for that event by repenting of your sins and believing that Jesus Christ died for you, paying the penalty for your sin with His death, and by believing that His resurrection from the dead was proof that God's wrath against sin was satisfied and your sins are forgiven. This is the only way to know that you will be ready for death or the Lord's return, whichever comes first.