

letters to Thessalonica

#10 apostasy, II Thess 2:1-17

As mentioned in our last lesson, Paul, Silas and Timothy eagerly waited for any news coming out of Macedonia. Lately the news had been good regarding the new band of believers at Thessalonica. However now teachers had crept in and their teaching on the day of the Lord was shaking the confidence of the church.

1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

[1.] v:1-2, or be disturbed, From these verses we see that the teachers were claiming that their information came from Paul. What would that tactic accomplish in the minds of the new Christians?

[2.] v:1-2 again, I'm sure we have all had someone say, "Yes, you can trust me, it's in the Bible"! If this happens, what should we do?

[3.] question [1.], By the way, how do you suppose these new "experts" were able to roam freely around Thessalonica and our servants of God were forbidden?

[5.] v:1-2 again, the day of the Lord, Before we move on, let's take time for a quick reminder. In I Thess 5:3, we see what everyone will be talking about just prior to this event. What is it?

[4.] v:3, the day of the Lord, From I Thess 5:2 and this verse, we have some cold hard facts about this event. What are they?

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apostasy, NT:646 (*ap-os-tas-ee'-ah*); feminine of the same as NT:647; defection from truth (properly, the state):

KJV - falling away, forsake.

Strong's Numbers and Concordance

Example of use. Acts 21:21, and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake (*ap-os-tas' -ee-ah*) Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

[6.] v:3, apostasy, Our definition (above) says it means to “fall away” or “forsake”. From the possibilities below, select that which will be fallen away from.

- a) political activism
- b) religion
- c) saving faith
- d) world dominance
- e) love of money

[7.] v:3 again, the man of lawlessness is revealed, Along with apostasy, we read that this event will happen. In v:3, 4, 9 & 10 we have a bunch of characteristics of the man of lawlessness. We left xtra room, so write down as many as you can.

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4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

[8.] v:4, so-called god or object of worship, Write down what you consider is a so called god or object of worship.

[9.] v:4 again, takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God, Approximately 20-yrs after the writing of this letter, Titus would destroy the Herodian temple in Jerusalem. As of this study, it has not been rebuilt. For quite a while now, even those who profess Christianity are looking to have that structure rebuilt. That being said, from the time of Christ the Bible says, in I Cor 4:16-17, Eph 2:19-22 and I Pet 2:5, that the born-again are God's temple. OK, in your opinion, where does the man of lawlessness take his seat and why did you come to that conclusion?

5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

[10] v:5-7, restrains him now, We see about when the restrains will be removed. As a guess, when do you think the "restraining" started?

[11.] v:5-7 again, restrains him now, Review lesson #7, question [10.] and try to identify who restrains and why you came to that conclusion.

[12.] v:8-10, the Lord will slay, Study these three verses. If there is something else destined to perish, what is it?

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11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

[13.] question [12.] those who perish, V:10 gives the reason why the Lord will not save this second group. What is the reason?

deluding influence, NT:4106 (plan'-ay); feminine of NT:4108 (as abstractly); objectively, fraudulence; subjectively, a straying from orthodoxy or piety:
KJV - deceit, to deceive, delusion, error.

Strong's Numbers and Concordance

13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. 14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[14.] v:11-12, deluding influence, What will this influence cause people to do?

[15.] v:13-14, God has chosen you. Many who profess Christianity are almost desperate to think that they chose God. What might be their motive for thinking this?

[16.] question [15.] Speaking of God choosing, we read in the Old Testament that God chose the nation of Israel as His own. Are we talking about the same group and if not, what is the difference?

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15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

[17.] v:15, Suppose a person does stand firm through out his life. Will he end up in the majority or the minority and why did you arrive at your answer?

[18.] v:16, eternal comfort, If this promise is important to you, is speaking it or living it, the best way to share it with others?

[19.] v:17, strengthen your hearts, Why is this phrase important to us who are the born-again?

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