

“All Power & False Signs”

2 Thessalonians 2: 6-8

March 30, 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)

Falsehood & Deception Are A Present Reality To Bring The Destruction Of Those Who Don’t Believe, (vs. 9 – 12)

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. This is God’s judgment on those who do not believe the Gospel and who love worldliness.

The Thessalonian Church was too eager... in its expectation of the Lord’s advent; the Apostles beg them “for the sake of [that] advent” to be cautious . Some went so far as to declare that “the day of the Lord is already come” . To enable the readers to “prove the prophesyings” addressed to them on this matter, they are furnished with a token... of the Second Advent... Preceding Christ’s return in judgement (1:5 ff.), there must be a supreme manifestation of evil (vv. 3-10). This development... will be twofold, producing (1) “the apostasy”; and (2) “the revelation of the man of lawlessness” (or “of sin”), in whom the sin of humanity will culminate... This gigantic impersonation of evil is exhibited as the antagonist and antithesis of Christ in such a way that, while St Paul does not give... the name Antichrist, yet this designation correctly sums up his description... ~ G. G. Findlay

1) Lawlessness Is Simply What The Lost World Desires; So God Gives It To Them, (vs. 9 – 10)

We must understand that

delusion is part of the plan

- **The specific purpose of lawlessness is deception** - ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,** ¹⁰ **and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing** (Pres.Act.Part), - “You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father – even God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:41-44, ESV)
- **The specific remedy to lawlessness is belief** - **because they refused** (Aor.Mid.Ind) **to love the truth and so be saved** (Aor.Pas.Inf). - “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.” (1 Timothy 1:15-16, ESV)

2) God Is Actively Withholding The Grace That Leads To Belief & Salvation, (vs. 11 – 12)

This is not future but present

- **The delusion is intentional** - ¹¹ **Therefore God sends** (Pres.Act.Ind) **them a strong delusion,** - “Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”” (John 12:39-40, ESV)
- **The delusion is effective** - **so that they may believe** (Aor.Act.Inf) **what is false,** - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,” (1 Timothy 4:1-2, ESV)
- **The delusion is destructive** - ¹² **in order that all may be condemned** (Aor.Pas.Subj) - “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.” (John 3:18-20, ESV)
- **The delusion has a remedy** - **who did not believe** (Aor.Act.Part) **the truth but had pleasure** (Aor.Act.Part) **in unrighteousness.** - “He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.” (Romans 2:6-8, ESV)

Lo! th' incarnate God, ascended, Pleads the merit of his blood; Venture on him, venture wholly, Let no other trust intrude: I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

*****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.

- 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)