

Edgemont Bible Church
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2 Thessalonians 2:10c-17

April 9, 2017

Intro: Remembering that last week Paul didn't want them to be ignorant of how the antichrist was to be revealed. He also reminded them of the power that he would demonstrate and the influence that he would hold over the world. But mostly that he would be destroyed quickly and easily when Christ returns. Since these things are true, Paul continues with the exhortations.

V. How to be ready for the end times – Part 2b: Be Strong and Courageous - 2 Th 2:10c-17

B. Do Not Be Unbelieving – vs 10c-12

1. because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
 - a. Love of the truth appears only hear in the NT
 - b. the unregenerate are lost not because they cannot hear or understand the word, but because they do not love it
 - c. the truth includes
 - i. the gospel - Col 1:5
 - ii. The Lord Jesus Christ who is the truth - Jo 14:6
 - d. their apathy or hatred of the truth is not intellectual, but moral - 2Co 2:15
 - e. their self imposed blindness leaves them under deception of the evil one
 - i. Pharaoh hardened His heart
 - ii. **Ex 3:19**; 7:13-14,22; 8:15,19,32
 - iii. Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' - Is 6:9-10; Mt 13:14-14; Mk 4:12; Lk 8:10; Jo 12:40
 - f. it is no surprise that they will fall for the antichrist' deceptions - 2Co 4:3
2. And for this reason
 - a. God will send them strong delusion,
 - i. When people refuse to believe, God sentences them to believe what they shouldn't
 - for the LORD your God is testing you - **Deut 13:1-4**;
 - Mt 24:5,11; 1Ti 4:1
 - ii. God's plan revealed and accomplished
 - see B.1.e.i.+ ii. - **Ex 4:21; 7:4**;
 - God hardened Pharaoh's heart - Ex 9:12; 10:1,20,27; 11:10; 14:4,8; and others - Eze 14:9; Ro 1:24;
 - b. that they should believe the lie - God uses Satan and the antichrist as instruments of His judgment like He did in the day of Ahab - **1Ki 22:19-23**
3. The purpose of this working with Satan
 - a. that they all may be condemned
 - b. Why?
 - i. who did not believe the truth
 - ii. The result of not believing

- but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- Ro 1:32

C. Do Not Be Insecure – vs 13-14

1. To not fear the future is to understand Salvation

a. Paul not just using the opportunity for teaching, but is Pastoral in nature

b. a lack of understanding of the security of the believer removes hope

i. if one should die before confession of sin, some think condemnation is the result engendering fear and dread

ii. Especially since sinless perfection is impossible in this life - 1Ki 8:46; Ps 143:2; Pr 20:9; Ec 7:20; 1Jo 1:8,10

c. Jesus taught the security of the believer - Jo 6:37,39-40,44; 10:27-29

2. But we are bound to give thanks to God always

a. Paul knew they were saved - for you, brethren

b. beloved by the Lord, - note the contrast between the previous group and the believers at the Church

3. b/c God from the beginning chose you for salvation - 1Th 1:4;

a. Election is a doctrine that the Bible teaches

i. before the foundations of the world - Eph 1:4

ii. According to the foreknowledge of God - 1Pe 1:2

iii. not according works, to His own purpose and grace - 2Ti 1:9

b. the doctrine of God's sovereign election serves to

i. Put down human pride - Tit 3:5 - He saved us

ii. Exalts God - Ps 115:1- But to Your name give glory

iii. Produce Joy - 1 Pe 1:1-2,6,8 - you rejoice with joy inexpressible

iv. Grant privilege to believers - Eph 1:3 - blessed us with every spiritual blessing

v. promotes Holiness - Col 3:12-13 - as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on . . .

vi. Provides security - Phil 1:6 - will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

c. Who is responsible for what

i. through sanctification by the Spirit - Ro 15:16; 1 Co 6:11; 1 Pe 1:2 - how God's election becomes operative in our lives

- Begins at regeneration, includes a total transformation, so that the believer is born again and becomes a new creature – Jo 3:3-8; 2 Co 5:17; Gal 6:15

- does not mean that we are sinless (see above)

- it does mean that we are on paths of progressive sanctification – increasing in holiness and Christlikeness – Jo 17:17; Ro 6:1-22; 2 Co 3:18; Gal 5:16-25; Phil 3:12; Col 3:9-20; 1 Th 4:3-4; 5:23; 1 Pet 1:14-16; 1 Jo 3:4-10

ii. and belief in the truth,

- Salvation is by grace through faith – Eph 2:8
- it is to those that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – Acts 16:31; Ro 10:9-10
- this is the true Gospel that permeates the NT – Mk 1:15; Jo 1:12; 3:15-16,36; 5:24; 6:40,47; Acts 10:43; 1 Tim 1:16; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 1:9; 1 Jo 5:1 - that is the power of God until salvation – Ro 1:16
- The Spirit regenerates those who hear and believe the truth by granting repentance – Acts 11:18; 2 Tim 2:25 – and the gift of faith – Eph 2:8-9

4. to which He called you by our gospel,

- a. though never stated as such, refers to the effectual call of believers to salvation – Ro 1:6-7; 1 Co 1:2,9,24,26; Gal 1:6; Eph 4:1,4
 - i. It is irresistible – Ro 8:30
 - ii. The Gospel is not just words and facts but the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes – Ro 1:16
- b. for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1:10,12
 - i. a firm statement of the security of salvation – we were loved, chosen, called, and transformed by God for the purpose of eternally reflecting the glory of Christ
 - ii. nothing can separate us from that love or purpose – Ro 8:35-39

D. Do Not Be Weak – vs 15-17

1. stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught,

- a. Stand firm – a exhortation given throughout the NT – 1 Co 15:58;16:13; Eph 6:11,13,14; Phil 4:1
- b. Traditions which you were taught
 - i. tradition loaded with cultural and ecclesiastical baggage
 - Paul was not speaking of extra-biblical tradition that hold equal status with the word of God
 - the Bible condemns human tradition – Isa 29:13; Mt 15:3; Mk 7:8-9,13; Col 2:8
 - ii. **paradosis** - transmission, a precept; can be used of the Jewish traditionary law, ordinance, tradition, lit. things handed down and refers to divine revelation.
 - whether by word – oral teaching
 - or our epistle – written teaching
- c. hold fast to the faith which was once for all handed down for the saints – Jd 3; 1 Tim 6:20; 2 Tim 1:14

2. Benediction - Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father,

- a. Himself in the emphatic position,
 - i. governs both our Lord Jesus Christ and our God and Father
 - ii. both comfort us

b. who has loved us

i. The Father as much as the Son – Jo 3:16; Ro 8:32; Eph 2:4; 2Th 2:16; 1Jo 4:10

ii. The demonstration of His love

- and given us everlasting consolation

- and good hope by grace,

c. Looking to God for

i. comfort your hearts – in the midst of tribulation, comfort was found in security and hope

ii. With security and hope, God can establish you

- in every good word – what we say in the tribulation

- and work – what we do in the tribulation