

“THE ANTICHRIST IS COMING”

The Day of Dread & Doom

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Pastor Bruce Henry _____ Sunday AM, April 24, 2016

- The Thessalonians' faith had been shaken by false teaching about end-time events. Paul had to reassure them that what he had taught them earlier was the truth. *Bible study must be done carefully and accurately.*
- 2 Thessalonians 2 addressed a misunderstanding that needed correction. The church of Thessalonica was being persecuted. Since the Thessalonians knew that the Day of the Lord would include a time of persecution, some of them began to think that the Day of the Lord had already come and that they were living through the Tribulation.

I. THE PROBLEM OF THE SAINTS CONCERNING THE DAY OF THE LORD. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

A. The request for calmness. 1, 2a

B. The reason for confusion. 2

1. Based on erroneous communication.
God's Word does not change or contradict itself.
2. Led to an erroneous conclusion.
What a person believes about the future does affect his spiritual stability.

II. THE PREREQUISITES TO THE START OF THE DAY OF THE LORD. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10a

- A. Preceded by _____. 2:3
- B. Preceded by _____. 2:3-5, 8-10a
- C. Preceded by _____. 2:6-7

III. THE PUNISHMENT OF SINNERS IN THE DAY OF THE LORD. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

- A. The _____ of sinners. 2:10-11
- B. The _____ of sinners. 2:12

A PARADIGM TO UNDERSTAND 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

The Apostle Paul has shifted from a generalized view of the future in 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10, where he developed the theme of reward for believers and retribution for unbelievers without specific regard for exact chronology. He spoke there with the same compressed prophetic perspective expressed by the Lord Jesus Christ in John 5:29 when He contrasted the resurrection of life with the resurrection of judgment.

Second Thessalonians 2 begins by referring to the rapture in 2:1 and then the Day of the Lord in 2:2. The Thessalonians were confused and frightened about their relationship to those two prophetic events in light of the present circumstances of severe persecution (1:4-10) and the recent false teaching (2:2). They believed that the Day of the Lord was currently present (2:2) and thus they were alarmingly shaken.

How is all of this to be understood in terms of:

- (1) What had Paul taught them in the past?
- (2) What was the false teaching?
- (3) Why were the Thessalonians upset?

The Evidence

Four pieces of information must be correlated and harmonized to ensure that a correct re-creation of the Thessalonian dilemma has been achieved.

They are:

- Paul's original teaching on the rapture's time
- The false teaching that disturbed the Thessalonians
- The Thessalonians' response to the false teaching
- Paul's answer to the Thessalonians to correct the false teaching

Three of the four pieces of data are contained in 2 Thessalonians. The false teaching that disturbed the Thessalonians was to the effect that the Day of the Lord was present (2:2). The Thessalonians' response was one of alarm and disturbance (2:2). Paul's answer to correct the false teaching (2:3-12) can be outlined.

The unknown (at least in 2:1-12) of what Paul originally taught with regard to the time of the rapture must be deduced from the other three pieces of given data. The final question to be answered becomes, "What original teaching about the rapture would account for the Thessalonians panic over the false thought that the Day of the Lord was present and also accounts for the way Paul responded in correcting the error?" There are at least three possibilities that help the Bible student to draw a conclusion.