

LESSON 7 – SINCERE LOVE OF THE TRUTH

II Thessalonians 2:1-17

Summary

In chapter 2, Paul continues his discussion of the events surrounding the Lord's return; however, he turns from His just and mighty judgment to the timing of this second coming. He warns them to not be easily deceived into believing that the Lord's return had been missed. Instead, they should remember the previously delivered explanation that the "lawless one", the "man of sin", and "son of perdition" must come first, which was currently being restrained. Jesus would not return and destroy this one destined for perdition, until this Satanic deceiver was first revealed. Subtle warnings are offered against apostasy among those who first loved unrighteousness instead of truth, which should produce a zealous love for truth in all who desire salvation. Paul's confidence in their salvation because of their belief in truth would have juxtaposed their character and encouraged them, while consoling them. However, this promise brought a responsibility of steadfastness, which is further defined in the final chapter.

Bible Reading With Questions

Revelation and Destruction of the Lawless One – II Thessalonians 2:1-8

1. The Bible refers to many different "days of the Lord". In fact, the destruction of Jerusalem is described as a "coming of Jesus" (Luke 21:20-38). Which "day of the Lord" is discussed here in chapter 2? How do you know?
2. What possible sources of misleading influence does Paul anticipate and cut off?
3. What events will precede that great day, when the Lord returns?
4. Can Bible "mysteries" be understood? Or, are they practically impossible to comprehend?
5. What is the "mystery of lawlessness"?

Chosen for Delusion and Destruction – II Thessalonians 2:9-12

6. Describe the "coming of the lawless one". To whom is he likened?
7. Whom will he persuade, and why will he have success?
8. How does one have and exhibit a "love of truth"?

9. Why will God “*send them strong delusion*”? How is God not morally responsible for their resultant sin? (Compare to **I Kings 22:1-36; Isaiah 66:3-4; Ezekiel 14:4-5.**)

Chosen for Salvation and Good Works – II Thessalonians 2:13-17

10. Verse 13 says that “*God from the beginning chose*” the Thessalonians “*for salvation*”? Does that mean that Calvin’s doctrine of election was correct? Explain.
11. How can one be “*sanctified by the Spirit*”, as were the Thessalonians?
12. How were the Thessalonians “*called*”?
13. Why is the Lord’s comfort and consolation “*everlasting*”, as opposed to the fleeting comfort of men?
14. What were the Thessalonians to do with that comfort? What was to be the result of that consolation?