

BIB 271 Church Epistles

Lesson 12 II Thessalonians

Intro. Paul writes a second letter shortly after the first in response to reports of continued false teaching concerning the Day of the Lord. There were apparently individuals who had written a letter to the church claiming to be from Paul saying that the resurrection had already passed. II Tim. 2:17-18 In response to that claim Paul writes this letter whose salutation is identical to the first letter likely for the sake of establishing authenticity.

Theme - The Coming Day of the Lord is yet at hand

Note: at hand means yet future compared to already past and does not necessarily mean it could happen at any moment.

Key verses: 2:1-2

I. Pastoral Comfort from the Hope of Christ's Return (1)

- A. patience in persecution 3-5
- B. punishment for persecution 6-10
- C. prayer through persecution 11-12

II. Prophetic Caution from the Signs of Christ's Return (2)

- A. The watching for antichrist 1-6
 - 1. The Lord's return is yet future - 1-2
 - 2. Two events that precede the Lord's return 3
 - a. falling away of the faithful saints
 - b. man of sin be revealed, son of perdition

Note: importance of examining and understanding the subject of imminency. If the Lord's return could happen today, then the Pre-tribulation perspective is correct. If the Lord's return is prevented by these two criteria: falling away and revealing of antichrist, then it is post-tribulational.

- 3. Identification of the antichrist 4
 - a. exalts himself above God
 - b. sits in the temple of God
 - c. declares himself God

Note: the antichrist is a person who represents a system, not just a system such as Catholicism or a line of people such as the Popes or Caesars I John 2:18

- 4. Now you know what withholds 5-6 the two things from v. 3

B. The working of antichrist 7-12

- 1. He is restraining - already working 7

Note: we know what withholds are these two things. Same word translated withhold is the word translated letteth and let in verse 7 Let (websters' 1828) = 5. To retard; to hinder; to impede; to interpose obstructions. 2 Th 2.

- 2. He is to be revealed 8 - "and then" when he is taken out of the way
- 3. He is real 9-10 after the working of Satan signs and wonders
- 4. He is received 11-12 believed by the damned

Note: if this is pre-trib, anyone who heard the gospel will not be saved after the rapture, though we know that isn't true from Rev. 7:9,13-14 If Post-Trib then their fate is truly sealed with His appearing

C. The waiting for antichrist

1. not possible to deceive the elect 13-14 if it were possible he would deceive the very elect
2. stand fast 15
3. comfort of the hope of God 16-17

III. Practical Commands in light of Christ's Return (3)

A. Patient waiting 1-5 prayer for deliverance

B. Proper working 6-15

1. Some quit working waiting for Lord's return
2. withdraw from them 6
3. Paul's example - 7-9
4. Paul's instruction 10-15
 - a. tell them to go back to work 12
 - b. don't get weary of them 13
 - c. remove company to shame them 14 don't allow them to eat with you
 - d. admonish them but not an enemy 15

Conclusion

Figure out your eschatology.