

## 2Thessalonians, Chapter Two, Lesson One

REMEMBERING THE TRUTH 2Thessalonians 2:1-5

### STIMULATE

\*\* In our study together last week, we learned the importance of being willing to suffer for the name of Jesus Christ. We concluded that study by looking at Galatians 2:20 which says,

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

If we were to live in the same manner as Paul, we would find ourselves extremely encouraged through all forms of suffering, understanding that it is God's "righteous judgment" for us and a validation of the legitimacy of our salvation. cf. 2Thessalonians 1:5

### MOTIVATE

\*\* As he now moves into chapter two, the apostle becomes preoccupied with the truth of God's Word, as it combats the heresy of the world around us. Over the next three weeks we will watch him instruct those who lived in Thessalonica on the subjects of:

*REMEMBERING THE TRUTH* - 2Thessalonians 2:1-5

*REJECTING THE TRUTH* - 2Thessalonians 2:6-12

*HAVING FAITH IN THE TRUTH* - 2Thessalonians 2:13-17

\*\* For today, why does Paul want all Christians to practice "**Remembering the Truth**"? How will that protect us from heresy or spiritual confusion? For the wonderful answers, please join me now in 2Thessalonians 2:1-5 as we allow the Lord to teach our hearts more of His precious truth.

Read passage (V.1-5)

Opening Prayer

### *Remembering the Truth*

### INVESTIGATE

**V. 1** \*\* Let's take a brief look back at chapter one to be reminded of the thinking behind all that Paul has already written to these Thessalonian Christians.

V. 3 - Giving of thanks to God for them

V. 4 - He speaks proudly of them

V. 5 - God considers them worthy of the kingdom

V. 6 - God's retribution on their behalf (continuing on through V.9)

V.10 - Christ will be glorified in His saints

V.11 - The saints are glorified in Christ (continuing on through V.12)

\*\* Having just spent the entire first "chapter" of his letter encouraging the Christians in Thessalonica, is there any indication that Paul is about to shift his thinking to another subject?

Yes - His use of the word now - (de) in the original Greek, is used 344 times in the New Testament. 269 times this word is translated as "now". Other times it is translated; "on the other hand", "moreover", "nevertheless" and "however".

\*\* While he still wants to encourage his reader, he is "now" going to strengthen them by talking about two major events in human history which are yet to take place. What are they according to verse one?

1. "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"
2. "our gathering together to Him"

\*\* Let's look at these two events, one at a time. Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 24:3-14 as we learn together the six "D's" of Christ's Second Coming.

V. 5 - Deception V. 6 - Dissension V. 7 - Devastation  
V. 9 - Desecration V.10 - Defection V.14 - Declaration (cf. Revelation 14:6-7)

\*\* This is an apt description of Christ's Second Coming, but while we are still here in Matthew 24, what of "our gathering together to Him"?

Many commentators feel that 2Thessalonians 2:1 is yet another reference to the rapture of the church, but Paul had already settled that issue in 1Thessalonians 4:17. Here, he has in mind the gathering of all of the elect (including the Raptured Church, the OT saints and those who became Christians during the Tribulation) for the purpose of entering the millennial kingdom. cf. Matthew 24:29-31 and Matthew 25:31-34

**V. 2** \*\* Now back in 2Thessalonians, Paul had two areas of concern for these believers regarding the end time events of which he had just spoken. What were they?

1. "that you may not be quickly shaken"
2. "[that you may not] be disturbed"

\*\* What is the significance of being "quickly shaken"?

It is speaking of the practice of acting hastily or suddenly in response to something. It is the equivalent of a spiritual "knee-jerk". cf. 1Timothy 5:22

\*\* From what were they not to be "quickly shaken"?

From their composure - lit. "their mind". We must allow the truth of God's Word to control our lives and thinking, rather than the unknown or foolish speculations of the spiritual advisors from this world.

\*\* In addition to not wanting their minds shaken, Paul did not want them to be "disturbed". How is that any different?

Instead of a sudden or quick shaking, this is referring to a lasting or continuing state of being troubled. cf. Mark 13:7(KJV), John 14:1, 14:25-27

\*\* Still here in verse two, Paul warns them of three things that might be used to shake them. What are they?

1. "**a spirit**" - this has in mind the prophesy which is driven along by a false spirit. (1John 4:1)
2. "**a message**" - simply stated, a sermon or word of mouth communication from someone.

**3. "a letter"** - which would be a forgery "as if from us". cf. 2Thessalonians 3:17

\*\* What would be the content of these false forms of communication?

"to the effect that the day of the Lord has come".

\*\* From what we have already learned in 1Thessalonians, what is generally associated with "the day of the Lord"?

God's Judgment! The heretics were saying that all of the events prior to Christ's Second Coming had already taken place, the Thessalonians had missed the Rapture and Christ's return to set up His kingdom was imminent.

\*\* How could that shake you if your faith was as new as some of those in Thessalonica?

1. They feared they had missed the Rapture.
2. They had concerns for the Christians who had died in Christ. (1Thessalonians 4:13)
3. Many were becoming disorderly. (2Thessalonians 3:11)
4. There was general confusion, unsettled spirits and troubled hearts.

**V. 3** \*\* How does Paul correct the problem?

He explains exactly what has to take place before the Lord will return to set up His kingdom.

**1.** "the apostasy comes first", while this can refer to the general falling away from the faith which will take place in the end times (cf. 1Timothy 4:1 and Matthew 24:10), it is more likely referring to "the" apostasy by the "man of sin or lawlessness" who feigns worship during the first three and one half years of the tribulation, and then deifies himself as the single object to be worshipped. (cf. Daniel 9:27, 11:31)

**2.** "the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction". This is speaking of exposing an individual who is already alive, but now becomes widely known for what he really is.

**V. 4** \*\* What is the agenda of this one who becomes known as the AntiChrist?

1. He opposes "the" God and every other object of worship thought up by man.
2. He exalts himself. cf. 1Peter 5:5
3. He takes his seat in the temple of God.
4. He displays himself as being God.

\*\* Had these earth shaking events taken place yet in the lives of the Thessalonian believers?

No - and the Thessalonians knew that they had not taken place yet! But even knowing that, if they were not committed to "**Remembering the Truth**" they could still be shaken!

**V. 5** \*\* What does Paul do here in verse five to bring them back to a stable minded condition, back to "Thinking Biblically"?

He asks them to remember what they already know!  
The very things Paul had taught them. cf. 2Peter 1:12

\*\* Where was Paul when he originally instructed these shaken Thessalonians?

"...I was still with you, I was telling you these things". Paul is saying, "come on you guys, you know the truth - when someone comes along with heresy, ignore it and remember the truth".

## **EXTRICATE**

\*\* We know that these young-in-faith Thessalonians were too easily shaken about the unknown. Worrying about the future, they became easy prey for the false teacher or false prophet. What were the three possible sources for heretical teaching?

1. "a spirit" - this has in mind the prophesy which is driven along by a false spirit. (1John 4:1)
2. "a message" - simply stated, a sermon or word of mouth communication from someone.
3. "a letter" - which would be a forgery "as if from us". cf. 2Thessalonians 3:17

## **DELINEATE**

\*\* If someone tries to deceive us with heresy, where should we go to maintain our stable minds?

To the Word of God. cf. 2Thessalonians 2:3

## **EVALUATE**

\*\* We might not be "shakable" over the kind of issues which concerned the Thessalonians, but we can be shaken. Satan was successful in shaking Eve when he said, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" cf. Genesis 3:1

\*\* What kinds of things could we become shaken about today. How could heresy draw us away from trusting and/or worshipping our gracious God?

We worry about our:

Housing, health, food, savings, clothing, safety (from accidents or crime), work, losing loved ones, friendships or relationships of all kinds.

\*\* Knowing the Thessalonians problem of forgetting the Word of God and how Paul simply brought them back to what they had learned, what should we do when we are tempted to be shaken or worried because of Satan's lies?

We should spend our lives "**Remembering the Truth**"!

## **ACTIVATE**

\*\* We are more than conquerors when we remember and take our stand upon the truth of God's word. We should go about each day boldly, confidently representing the greatness of our God.

In 2Corinthians 3:5 Paul said,

"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God".

As long as we are "**Remembering the Truth**" we will win the day against all forms of error and evil, for the glory of our loving God.

Closing prayer