

Wrestling with Radical Evil (2 Thessalonians 2)

Understanding the End Times – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis – November 16, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Matthew 13:30 (NIV) Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1. Don't be _____ about the day of the Lord

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 (NIV) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

2. Understand God's _____ timetable

2A. The power of _____ is at work now

2 Thessalonians 2:7a (NIV) For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work;

2B. The Holy Spirit in the church _____ evil

2 Thessalonians 2:6 (NIV) And now you know what is holding him [the lawless one] back, so that he [the lawless one] may be revealed at the proper time.

2C. The _____ of the church will unleash evil

2 Thessalonians 2:7 (NIV) For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NIV) Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day [day of the Lord] will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2D. The lawless one will be _____

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV) He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NIV) The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2E. Jesus will _____ and destroy the lawless one

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

3. Trust in God's _____

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

3A. Stand _____ on God's Word

2 Thessalonians 2:14-15 (NIV) He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

3B. Receive God's _____

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV) May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Wrestling with Radical Evil (2 Thessalonians 2)

Study Guide

Understanding the End Times – Part 4
Life Church St. Louis – November 16, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Intro. What evidence do you see of evil becoming more perverse and widespread in our day?

Explain how Jesus' parable of the weeds gives insight into the maturing of both evil and righteousness in the last days (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43).

According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, what will the rapture be like? How can you encourage others with this truth?

1A. Why would it have been alarming to the persecuted church of Thessalonica if the day of the Lord had already come (2 Thess. 2:1-2)?

1B. Why do you think an understanding of the day of the Lord is important for our lives here and now?

2A. How is the power of lawlessness working in our society today (2 Thess. 2:7)?

2B. How is the Holy Spirit in the church restraining lawlessness in our time (2 Thess. 2:6)?

2C. What would you expect to happen to lawlessness in our world if believers were raptured tomorrow (2 Thess. 2:3, 7)?

2D. In what ways do you see the activities of the lawless one operating in our society (2 Thess. 2:4, 9-12)?

2E. How can we be alert and not be deceived by those who follow this spirit of lawlessness?

2F. How does the end of the story in 2 Thess. 2:8 encourage you and give you hope?

3A. Explain the roles in salvation of the sanctifying work of the Spirit and belief in the truth (2 Thess. 2:13).

3B. What does it mean to stand firm and hold to the teachings of God's Word (2 Thess. 2:14-15)?

3C. How can an understanding of the end times bring encouragement and strength (2 Thess. 2:16-17)?

3D. Summarize the conflict of the last days and how everything will end in the day of the Lord.