

Standing Firm (2 Thessalonians 2)

Spiritual Warfare – Part 9

Life Church St. Louis – August 30, 2015

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

2 Timothy 3:1 (NIV) *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.*

2 Timothy 3:2-5a (NIV) *People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- having a form of godliness but denying its power.*

2 Timothy 3:5b (NIV) *Have nothing to do with them.*

2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NIV) *Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

1. Don't be _____

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.*

1A. The _____ must come first

2 Thessalonians 2:3a (NIV) *Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs ...*

1B. The man of _____ must appear

2 Thessalonians 2:3b-4 (NIV) *... and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 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. The power of lawlessness will _____

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.*

2A. The church _____ evil

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

2B. _____ miracles will intensify

2 Thessalonians 2:9 (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,*

2C. Many will be _____

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (NIV) *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.*

2D. Jesus will _____ 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. Stand _____ on God's truth

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NIV) *So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.*

3A. You are _____ through the Spirit and the Gospel

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 (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. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3B. Be _____ in every good deed and word

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.*

Standing Firm (2 Thessalonians 2) Study Guide

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Intro. In what ways are the last days in which we are living “terrible times” (2 Timothy 3:1)?

How are many people today “lovers of themselves” (2 Timothy 3:2-5a)? What other examples do you see today of the other descriptions listed in these verses?

What does it mean to be a lover of pleasure rather than a lover of God?

Why should we have “nothing to do with them” (2 Timothy 3:5b)?

How can we decide who to have nothing to do with and those we should gently instruct (2 Timothy 2:25-26)?

1A. Why do you think false teaching will increase in the last days (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2)?

1B. How are we seeing the beginning of the rebellion or apostasy in our day (2 Thessalonians 2:3a)?

1C. What do you think will fuel the rise of the man of lawlessness, the antichrist, before Jesus’ return (2 Thessalonians 2:3b-4)?

1D. How can you protect yourself from being deceived by false teaching?

2A. In what ways do you see the power of lawlessness increasing (2 Thessalonians 2:7)?

2B. How does the Holy Spirit in the church restrain evil (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)?

2C. How are lawlessness and counterfeit miracles the work of Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:9)?

2D. Explain how many are and will be deceived in the last days (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

2E. In what ways were the Supreme Court decisions to legalize abortion and homosexual marriage examples of lawlessness?

3A. How can we stand firm on the truth of God’s Word in the last days (2 Thessalonians 2:15)?

3B. What are the two elements by which we are saved (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)?

3C. Why do we need to be strengthened in every good deed and word in these last days (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)?