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The Day And Our Gathering To Christ

2 Thess. 2:1-3

Paul has thanked God for the Thessalonians and encouraged them to rest with him in their sufferings because God would recompense the wicked and glorify the godly.

Now in chapter two Paul deals with the heart of the epistle and purpose for the letter.

* Someone had declared that the Day of the Lord had come. vs. 2d

1. More specifically, this unique section provides us with information about the Man of Sin, found nowhere else in Scriptures. 2:1-12
2. This section is the most difficult of Paul's writings and therefore we must seek to understand it in light of what we do know and the full council of God's word.
3. Peter tells us that already in his day, some men were twisting Paul's writings to their own destruction. 2Pet. 3:16
4. Apparently what is not so obvious to us in this chapter was very clear and common knowledge to the Thessalonians.
5. Paul had gone into great detail about the study of end things, eschatology, in spite of his brief three week stay. 1Thess. 5:1, 2Thess. 2:5

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We want to look at Paul's comfort to the Thessalonians regarding false teaching about the Day of the Lord.

And Paul does this as a faithful teachers and spiritual father by a three-fold declaration. 2:1-3

- I. Paul reminds them of what they knew. vs. 1
 - II. Paul reproves them for what they had believed. vs. 2
 - III. Paul re-instructs them on what they had forgotten. vs. 3
- I. Paul reminds them of what they knew: the foundation to remember. vs. 1**
- A. Paul reminds them of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. vs. 1a-c
 1. The ones being addressed are the believer, "brethren", the community of God's redeemed.
 2. The word coming "parousia", means presence and was used for a royal visit by a ruler of Rome as a manifested deity.
 3. They had been waiting for God's Son from heaven who would deliver them from the wrath to come. 1Thess. 1:10
 4. Paul had told them of his hope and joy with them at the coming of the Lord. 1Thess. 2:19
 5. Paul had expressed their perfection at His coming. 1Thess. 3:13

6. Paul also told them that their dead loved ones would return with Jesus. 1Thess. 4:14-15
7. Paul prayed for their sanctification to be blameless at His coming. 1Thess. 5:23

B. Paul reminds them of their gathering together to Him. (Jesus) vs. 1c

1. Paul qualified the “parousia” of Jesus with “our gathering together to Him”.
 - a. They had been concerned over their dead loved ones how they would be included in the Lord’s return earlier and Paul told them they wouldn’t miss out on anything but in fact they would be returning with Christ. 1Thess. 4:14
 - b. They now were concerned about their own gathering “episunaoge” to Christ, since someone had declared they were already in the Day of the Lord.
2. Paul had told them they would be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. 1Thess. 4:17-18
 - a. Remember the phrase caught up is “harpazo” and means to seize violently, carry off by force or claim for one’s self eagerly.
 - b. And of the thirteen times it appears in the New Testament, the meaning and the event taking place is that of a

sudden and jolting removal of one geographical location to another.

- 1) One is in the Parable of the Sower, when the seed is plucked up to air by the birds or Satan. Matt. 13:19
 - 2) Another is when Philip is translated from the desert to Azotus. Acts 8:39
 - 3) Still another is when Paul was “harpozo” to the third heaven. 2Cor. 12:2
3. Paul used the phrase “our gathering together”, which means a gathering of saints as a corporate body for worship.
 - a. The phrase appears only one other time in the New Testament.
 - b. The text is a strong reproof to all who would forsake the gathering together” of he saints in church. Heb. 10:25
 - c. A.T. Robertson discovered it’s use in the island of Syme, off Caria, to mean “collection”.

Illustration

How many Christians have been soon shaken in mind and troubled by y2k, all of this year by believing all the horror stories of Christian so called teachers, who do irresponsible prophetic teaching via newspaper theology, when the believer knows, that we are to occupy till He comes, that Jesus is in control of our lives!

* If we respond no different than the unbeliever, then we are no different but just like them!

Application

1. The first time Jesus mentioned that He would come back for His own, was just before He went to the cross and announced to His disciples that He was leaving. Jn. 14:1-3

* Things were going to get difficult and danger, yet Jesus told them they would be witnesses to Him, in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

2. The admonition to be ready, is for the purpose to escape all the things that will be coming on the world and stand before the Son of Man. Lk. 21:36

* Being salt and light to the world around us. Matt. 5:13-14

3. The teaching that declares, “My Lord delays His coming” or that “That day has come”, is deception. Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21

* The first words out of the mouth of Jesus in the Olivet discourse, regarding His coming was, “Take heed that no man deceive you”. Matt. 24:4

4. The exhortation of Peter to the believer can be summed up in one phrase “Remember what you know” and much of it is in regards to the Lord’s coming. 2Pet. 1:12, 15, 20, 3:1, 3

* “Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lust, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue

as they were from the beginning of creation. For they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world then existed perished, being flooded with water.” 2Pet. 3:3-6

So Paul reminds them first of all of what they knew, the foundation to remember!

II. Paul reproves them for what they had believed: The folly to reject. vs. 2

A. Paul reproves them for being soon shaken in mind and troubled by discounting what they knew. vs. 2a

1. Paul describes their immediate reaction to the false teaching.

a. He described their reaction as being soon “takeos”, which denotes a hastily reaction.

b. He then describes the effect as shaken “saluo”, meaning to waver, agitate, topple, a restless tossing as a ship not securely moored.

1) The word is used in reference to John by Jesus, “Who did you go see, a reed shaken in the wind?” Matt. 11:7

2) The word is used by Peter at Pentecost of David, who would not

be shaken because his Lord was at his right hand. Acts 2:25

- c. He describes the activity as taking place in their mind.
 - 1) The word mind “nous”, referring to the reasoning aspect giving equilibrium of thought balance.
 - 2) The word is found twenty-four times in the New Testament, all are Paul’s except for three.
 - 3) J.B. Phillips translation reads, “Keep your heads and not be thrown off your balance.”
 - * The aorist tense points to the initial shock!
- 2. Paul describes their continuous state of agitation since embracing the false teaching.
 - a. They were troubled “throemai” , the word comes from to wail.
 - b. The idea is of an ongoing condition of a fragile stability, emotionally and mentally.
 - c. The present tense points to their state of alarm.
 - d. The word is found three times in the New Testament and all three are used regarding the end times and the Lord’s return. Matt. 24:6, Mk. 13:7

- B. Paul reproves them for believing that the teaching was from them. vs. 2b-c
 - 1. He says they should not be soon shaken in mind or troubled even if the revelation came by spirit.
 - a. The reference to “spirit” is most likely indicating a prophetic utterance.
 - b. Someone could of gotten up in the midst of the congregation and declared “Thus says the Lord”, in order to present it as authoritative and genuine.
 - c. Paul had already exhorted them to judge all things rather than to refuse prophecy. 1Thess. 5:19-21
 - 2. He says they should not be soon shaken in mind or troubled even if the revelation came by word.
 - a. The reference to “word” denotes the act of teaching or communicating as a teacher of God’s word.
 - b. There seemed to be a group who opposed sound doctrine and they were to disfellowship them. 2Thess. 3:14
 - 3. He says they should not be soon shaken in mind or troubled, even if the revelation by letter.
 - a. The apostle wrote letters to the various churches as the need came.
 - b. Someone had written a letter perhaps in the apostle’s name, a forgery.

- c. That is the reason why he closes his letter as he does, “The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is the sign in every epistle, so I write.” 3:17
 - 1) Satan can transform himself into an angel of light as well as his ministers. 2Cor. 11:14
 - 2) The proclamation of another gospel is of the severest punishment, “anathama”, the strongest word in the Greek of damnation. Gal. 1:6-9

C. Paul reproves them for believing that the Day of The Lord had come. vs. 2d

- 1. Paul had already told them that the Day of The Lord would come as a thief in the night to the unbeliever but not the believer. 1Thess. 5:1-4
- 2. Paul also told them “that day” was the outpouring of God’s wrath on the world. 1Thess. 1:10, 5:9-10
 - a. The Day of The Lord is not determined by a local or national situation.
 - b. The Day of the Lord is not determined by personal suffering.
 - c. The Day of the Lord is determined by a world wide lawlessness and God’s wrath, such as never has been. said Jesus. Matt. 24:21

- 3. The “day of Christ” is synonymous with the rapture and the “Day of the Lord”.
 - a. The catching up of the saints in the air. 1Thess. 4:17
 - b. Their gathering together to Jesus. 2Thess. 2:1

Illustration

There was a young prophet sent by God to proclaim judgment on Jeroboam as he stood at the pagan altar and he was given specific instructions not to return to same way or eat with anyone but an old prophet came to the young man and told him that he was also a prophet as he and an angel had sent him to come to his house and eat. And as they were eating the spirit of God prophesied through the old prophet, that the young man would die and he was slain by a lion as he left, yet his donkey was not harmed. 1Kings 13

Application

- 1. Whenever anything learned or taught contradicts or destroys what I know to be true and foundational to my faith in the Scriptures, I hang on to what I know as truth.
 - a. The Law warned about false prophets and that God would be testing His people’s love for God by it. Deut. 13:1-3
 - b. The severity of attacking God’s word was indicative by the penalty of death, the false prophet would be stoned, to deter others. Deut. 13:8-11

- c. The believer is to be a good Berean. Acts 17:11, 1Jn. 4:1-3
2. Walk through your mind of all the deception that has come into the church in the last twenty-five years and people have been seduced in believing it, contrary to Scripture.
- a. The shepherding doctrine.
 - b. The positive confession, health and wealth doctrine.
 - c. The signs and wonders movement, that exalted experience, both spiritual and emotional as valid and Scriptural, becoming very mystical, seeing “oras”, demonizing of Christians, even teaching people to raise the death!
3. Weigh out the importance of doctrine, that which can not be compromised and essential for salvation and holy living, as Paul told Timothy.
- a. “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.” 1Tim. 1:3
 - b. “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1Tim. 4:13
 - c. “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” 1Tim. 4:16
 - d. “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the

- doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means *of* gain. From such withdraw yourself.” 1Tim. 6:3-5
- e. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2Tim. 4:3-5
4. Jeremiah lived among many false prophets of his day and he did not remain silent.
- a. “How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they *are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD,

“And like a hammer *that breaks* the rock in pieces?” Jer. 23:26-29

- b. “Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who steal My words every one from his neighbor. “Behold, I am against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who use their tongues and say, `He says. “Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,” says the LORD, “and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,” says the LORD.” Jer. 23:30-32

Paul reproves them for what they believed, the folly to reject!

III. Paul re-instructs them on what they had forgotten: The faithful word to receive. vs. 3

* Here in is the application! vs. 5

- A. Paul instructs them that believers are to watch for various means of deception. vs. 3a
1. The word deceive “exapateo”, means to beguile, seduce wholly, entirely.
 - a. Sin nature can deceive us. Rom. 7:11
 - b. Self can deceive us. 1Cor. 3:18
 - c. Satan can deceive us. 2Cor. 11:3
 - d. Sinful Man can deceive us. Matt. 24:4
 2. The method is described as by “any means”.

- a. Be it by spirit, prophecy.
- b. Be it by word, teaching.
- c. Be it by letter or any other means.

B. Paul instructs them that the Day of The Lord will not come unless two things occur. vs. 3b-d

1. The falling away comes first. vs. 3b
 - a. The phrase falling away “apostasia” means defection from the truth, to forsake.
 - 1) The word in classical Greek is used of political or military rebellion.
 - 2) The Old Testament LXX uses it of rebellion against God. Jos. 22:22, 2 Chron. 29:19
 - 3) The phrase is found one other time in the New Testament, where Paul is accused by the Jews of telling Jews to forsake the law of Moses. Acts 21:21
- b. The root word is “aphistemi”, meaning “to remove”, some say it could be referring equally to a departure or removal of the church from the earth? vs. 6-7
 - 1) The church is raptured. Rev. 4-5
 - 2) The Antichrist appears on a white horse. Rev. 6
 - 3) I think that the falling away has begun and the removal of the

church will complete this particular falling away.

* The late J. Vernon McGee, prior to his death said, he believed we were in the period of this last falling away!

- 4) The article is present, it isn't speaking about another of the many rebellion that will occur from time to time in the latter times but "the rebellion or falling away" of the world. 1Tim. 4:1-4, 2Tim. 3:1-9, 13, 4:3-5
2. The man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. vs. 3c-d
 - a. The man of sin depicts his character of lawlessness and rebellion in opposition to God.
 - 1) He appears as the result of the falling away. vs. 6-8
 - 2) The word revealed "apokalupto" means to unveil. 1:7

* The tense is aorist, pointing to a definite time when the veil will be removed!
 - 3) The implication is that if this "falling away" has already begun, then it means that he will be on earth before he is revealed and possibly is alive today!

3) He has many others titles and names throughout the O.T. and N.T.

4) Antichrist is used by John. 1Jn. 2:18, 22, 4:3, 2Jn. 7

- b. The son of perdition describes his destiny, doom and destruction.
 - 1) This phrase is used to describe only two people.
 - a)) It is used of Judas Jn. 17:2
 - b)) It is used to describe the Anti-christ, in our text.
 - 2) Judas Ischariot was possessed by Satan. Lk. 22:3, Jn. 13:27
 - a)) Jesus was the epitome of the incarnation of God.
 - b)) The Anti-christ will be the epitome of the incarnation of Satan.

Illustration

If you are a parent, then you know how often and how many times you must re-instruct your children about things that they seemed to have forgotten, reproving and reminding them!

Application

1. Deception is natural for man, due to the condition of his heart. Jer. 17:9

- a. Stick to the Scriptures, the mere truthful facts.

- b. Don't be deceived through newspaper theology.
- 2. The prophet Daniel clearly delineates the last week to be ushered in by the covenant made by Israel with Him. Dan. 9:27
 - a. The first sixty-nine had a starting date, March 14, 445 B. C. to April 6, 32 A. D. Neh. 2
 - b. The seventieth week will result in the removal of the church. 2Thess. 2:7
- 3. The Day that brings the rapture of the church, will also bring in the "Day of the Lord" and wrath. 1Thess. 5:8
 - a. The first three and a half years will be a time of false peace, know as Tribulation. 1Thess. 5:3
 - b. The last three and a half years will be a time of God's wrath, known as Great-Tribulation. 2Thess. 2:9-10

So Paul instructs them again on what they had forgotten, the faithful word to receive!

Conclusion

Paul comforted the Thessalonians regarding false teaching about the Day of The Lord by:

- I. Reminding them of what they knew!
- II. Reproving them for what they had believed!
- III. Re-instructing them on what they had forgotten!