

“AFTER THE DEPARTURE – PART III” THESS. 2:11-17

PROPHECY/PRACTICAL



LAST WEEK...

The weight of evidence indicates that the Holy Spirit of God, who indwells the church today, is restraining the lawlessness and the lawless one during the church age. When the church departs from the earth, the lawless one will proceed with his plans. But after seven years, the career of the lawless one will come to an end and Christ will throw him and his cohort, the False Prophet, into the Lake of Fire which burns with brimstone.

SOME CONTEXT FROM LAST WEEK

⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming [Rev. 19:20]; ⁹ *that is*, the [lawless] one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, [deceptive ability] with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for [who?] those who perish, because [their choice] they did not receive the love of the truth [the gospel] so as to be saved (2 Thess. 2:8-10).

SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

¹¹ For this reason ["because they did not receive the love of the truth [the gospel] so as to be saved": v. 10] God will send upon them **a deluding influence** so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged [their choice] who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness (2 Thess. 2:11-12).

THEOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Could this “deluding influence” be something like the “partial hardening” that Paul talks about when he explains the condition of the majority of Jews during the church age?

“For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a [divine action] **partial hardening** has happened to Israel [timing] until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (Rom. 11:25).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

“It is unlikely that a person who rejects Christ in this day of grace will turn to Him in that awful period of tribulation. But the usual principle of Scripture is that while there is life there is hope. It is possible, though very improbable, that a person who has heard the gospel in this present age of grace will come to Christ after the rapture.”

Dr. John Walvoord, *The Thessalonians Letters*

A COMPLICATED VERSE

¹³ But we should always give thanks **to God** for you, brethren beloved by the Lord [Why?], because **God has chosen** [*haireomai*, "to choose for the purpose of showing special favor (2Th 2:13)] you from the beginning ["before the foundation of the earth"? Eph 1:4] for salvation through sanctification [setting you apart; 1 Cor. 1:2] by the Spirit [person] and faith [belief/trust] in the truth [the gospel] (2 Thess. 2:13).

GOD'S DIVINE SUMMONS

¹⁴ It was for this He called [*kaleo* - "to summon"] you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14).

"God's purpose in choosing the Thessalonians was that they might one day share in the splendor and honor that their Lord does and will enjoy—beginning at the Rapture. Ultimate glorification is in view."
(Thomas Constable)



THE SAME PROCESS...

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹[Before time] For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified (Rom. 8:28).



STAND ON THE TRUTH, WALK IN HIS ETERNAL COMFORT AND GOOD HOPE!

¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions [teaching] which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word (2 Thess. 2:15-17).

