

The Lord's Coming
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
October 10, 2018; Terry Townsend

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Persecution is the (systematic mistreatment) of an individual or group by another individual or group. The most common forms are (religious) persecution, (racism) and (political) persecution

The spiritual gift of prophecy was being (misused)

Our response to the misuse of spiritual gifts should be to (evaluate) them, not (ban) them

1 Corinthians 14:29-33

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.

31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace--as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

2nd Thessalonians was written to (refute) these deceptive teachings and to (encourage) God's people

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:4-7

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Before the day of the Lord there will be (4) distinct signs

1. The (rebellion)

Matthew 24:10-12

10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

2 Timothy 4:3-4

- 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.
- 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

"I'd like a little of your blood, please. But I don't care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won't you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I'll see you in heaven" – Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

"Itching ears" teaching appeals to the (flesh), not to the (spirit)

The ultimate triumph of God's kingdom and his righteousness in the world, therefore, depends not on the gradual increase of the professing church's success, but on the final intervention of God when he breaks into the world with righteous judgment – Fire Bible

2. The (man of lawlessness) will be revealed

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:4-12

Matthew 7:21-23

- 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'
- 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

(Signs, wonders and miracles) alone do not authenticate the gospel

The (love of Jesus) demonstrated through his people authenticates the gospel

John 8:31

- 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

John 13:35

- 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

3. Jesus' followers will be persecuted (all over the world)
4. The gospel will be taken to (every ethnic group)

Matthew 24:14

- 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.