

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 Exposing the Antichrist

Radio Host (00:00:16) - Today on light of the word with Pastor Ray.

Pastor Ray (00:00:22) - Before he comes, we go out. This is a two week, maybe three week study on the Antichrist. Why? Because there's little Antichrist. The Antichrist comes with a philosophy, with a principle and a practice. And it starts to move. And it's been moving for these 2000 years. It culminates with this man. But there's steps and steps that condition for this man.

Radio Host (00:01:38) - In John's first letter, he wrote that there were many antichrists in his time and that there is a spirit of Antichrist. Pastor Ray reminds us that the spirit of Antichrist continues to affect the church today. Have you ever thought that anything that distracts you from complete reliance on Jesus and listening intently to His voice comes from the spirit of Antichrist? It can be worldly thing, or it can even be religion according to man inspired by the deceiver.

Radio Host (00:02:10) - It's why the father said, This is my son. Hear him? Well, let's join Pastor Ray in the book of Second Thessalonians Chapter two for today's edition of Light of the Word.

Pastor Ray (00:02:23) - Chapter two, verse one through five. But let's read through verse 12. For its context. The title is Exposing the Christ and it is significant. It's very significant for us today. Second Thessalonians Chapter two, verse one. Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means for that day. Capital D notice will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed. The son of perdition, verse four, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that He is God.

Pastor Ray (00:03:26) - Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things. And now you know, brethren, what is restraining that He may be revealed by his own time for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy, with the brightness of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power signs and lying wonders and with all unrighteousness deception among those who perish because they had not received the love of the truth, that they may be saved. And for this reason, God will send them a strong delusion that they may that they should believe the lie, that they may be condemned, who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness, obviously. Why, even as well-meaning as I wanted to be and cover a whole chapter and then cover verses one through 12, then cover verses one through seven, we're going to cover verses one through five.

Pastor Ray (00:04:40) - But truly we're only going to cover verses one through four. This is Paul's second letter to which we studied was what we called the Model Church back in first Thessalonians chapter one, verse three. They had faith, They had love and they had hope. That's what they were known for in all of Macedonia. And yet we come here and our passage today, especially these verses one through three, are the theme of this book. Why Paul is writing this book. Because this model church has lost their hope. This model church here has come to this place that they are no longer looking for the soon return of Christ. Because what we just read in verses one through three is that someone wrote a letter in Paul's name and says the rapture is already happened. Now we're living in the tribulation. And the reason and this is a big key for us church. They are, as we studied last week, under extreme persecution, and that persecution was so great for their faith that they saw themselves. Surely we must be in the tribulation period because of the persecution that we are under.

Pastor Ray (00:06:01) - And so we can take our personal circumstances and we can shape them and believe them and make our circumstances, our culture, then back into the Word of God, rather than letting the Word of God clarify what is really happening. And I know we may say and as I've taught as we spoke, as we gave ten reasons for the pre tribulation rapture of the church, where he's going to grab his church and rapture literally means to seize violently like a child getting ready to walk out into a busy street off the curb and the father grabs and pulls away before the wrath of the car would come and destroy. Well, that's what God's going to do to his church and his bride, because that Capital D, that day that comes will be the day of the Lord where he will set up and rule and reign here on Earth as it is meant to be, according to his will and his word and his ways. Right now, we're under the day a man and man is having the say. But this church, they took their personal circumstances and started to shape their theology out of it.

Pastor Ray (00:07:12) - And Paul's writing a letter for clarity. And so the importance for us. Why study the anti Christ if we're going to be taken out? And as we studied before he comes, we go out. This is a two week, maybe three week study on the anti Christ. Why? Because there's little anti Christ. The anti Christ comes with a philosophy, with a principle and a practice and it starts to move. And it's been moving for these 2000 years. It culminates with this man. But there's steps and steps that condition for this man. And what the point is going to be is the world we're living in as it's spiraling and declining and decaying at breakneck speed. We see this principle in philosophy in the world around us, and it speaks to us. Why? The world is the way it is. Why we see things developing the way they develop. We always say we're not looking for the anti Christ, we're looking for Jesus Christ, but we want to understand the anti. It's not who the anti Christ is.

Pastor Ray (00:08:28) - Remember when we talked rapture we go, we always ask when. But the importance of why the rapture? Well, here we are today. It's not who is the anti Christ. It's important for us as believer. But why is he the anti Christ? And as we look at him and we see his heart and his means, we see him being fueled and literally he will become possessed by Satan himself. Then we start seeing why the world is the way the world is. Well, this model church had lost their hope. Where you stand on the return of Christ, where you stand on Rapture Pre-trib, Mid Trib, Post Trib and no Trib and all those things that go in between of it. It doesn't change your salvation, but it will change the way you live. And this model church that was doing so well

got themselves twisted up in their doctrine of the last days, and then they find themselves in confusion. And we're going to read this model church. They actually started to have contentions among themselves.

Pastor Ray (00:09:35) - We read some of the people quit their jobs. Some of the people became busybodies. And then we go from model Church to what's going on in this church in one year because they had missed and lost this simple, basic principle of looking for the soon return of Christ. They had lost their hope. And so chapter one in this book, as we study last week encouragement and persecution and tribulation, that study's online. Here in chapter two, we're going to talk about the exposing of the anti Christ. And then in chapter three, the exhortation, while we wait. And it's so hard for me not to jump to chapter three because we always want to get into practical application. But today we need to look at who this man is, what is his means. And I'm going to show you four things. We're going to be doing some deep dives back into Daniel, chapter nine. I got a lot to say. We're going to see the anti Christ, the peacemaker. The Antichrist, then he becomes the peace breaker.

Pastor Ray (00:10:37) - Then he becomes the persecutor. But our God always wins. Then he becomes the prisoner, because we will not be seeking and claiming them because we'll be so busy, just confused and crossed up with all these type of things. Verse one. Chapter two. Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come again. A letter comes. They think they've missed the Rapture. People speaking in Paul's name, whatever that was about. John meant to themselves, or just thinking that they knew better. And so they were going to speak in Paul's name, maybe even thinking we speak for Paul. Well, whatever confusion comes in and what we see back to chapter four of the first letter, verse 13, Paul said to them, I do not want you to be ignorant brethren concerning those who have fallen asleep, least you sorrow as others who have no hope.

Pastor Ray (00:11:53) - He's saying as we continually every month in prophecy update, we say God does not want us to be ignorant, unaware of the doctrines and the things of the last days. And I find this church had skipped its calling of first letter, Chapter five, verse 21 test. All things hold fast to what's good. They quit testing. They received something. Act 17:10. If I can find an indictment and the question can be was Acts 17 against the church or just against the city? I think probably a little of both. But Acts ten says those in Berrien were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, but they searched the scriptures to see if what was being said to them was true. What scriptures would they speak and what scriptures would they search? It would be searching the Old Testament. And so today we're going to search the Old Testament. Daniel Chapter nine, very specifically. But. There's this whole Council of God 66 books for us, 31,102 verses for us.

Pastor Ray (00:13:04) - We have it all. They as we should search the scriptures. And when we hear winds of doctrine, I tell you what does not the Internet produce winds of doctrine and then social media and then mainstream media. Everybody gets to produce and promote their

wind of doctrine. And some of it sounds so good. Some of it even the churches are buying with all these hot topics and they start going, Yeah, that's right. And you know, all the hot topics that I could mention right now in our day and season, but not to get digressed on that. But we have to search the scriptures. What does God say about this? And here's what it always comes down to. What's the most important thing? It's Jesus Christ and him crucified. John Chapter 20, verse 20. All kinds of confusion after the cross, All kinds of confusion after the death. All kinds of confusion. After three days on the day of his resurrection, Jesus makes everything 2020 John, 2020, perfect vision. He shows him the nail scarred hands and the pure side.

Pastor Ray (00:14:15) - You want to see Jesus and make everything in perfect clarity. We always have to start with Jesus. Then we go out from there. Everything as we search Scripture crosses at the cross based on the cross. What am I reading? What's the context? What's the heart of God? And that's what the cross brings us. What is the heart of God to redeem man from their sin and to start renewing their minds and presenting them spotless, blameless till he comes. We need to stay. We need to be in our church and personal lives. People who continually search the Scriptures, Acts 17, ten and 11 can literally also read. Don't believe a thing Rebel says. Go search it for yourself. And I give you that. I give you that. And I will never say to anyone because I said I will allow anyone to come and say, Well, I was reading the Bible. Let us all search the scriptures. Verse three Let no one deceive you by any means for the day. Capital D will not come.

Pastor Ray (00:15:24) - Then it's going to go on and talk about Y and we'll pick that up here in a second. But notice the capital D, It's the day of the Lord, Day of God. It's the day that God establishes and sets all things right. It's the day that he will set up his kingdom on Earth. It's the day that he will come and show himself the lamb and the lion, and he will set man in their right place. Today is the day of man. Man gets to call all the shots down the road. 60 minutes from here, the White House gets to call. What gender is. The White House gets to define what marriage is. The White House gets to define how man should treat one another. And the White House and this country from East Coast to West Coast governors and council and everyone else getting to say this is what we say. Some will say it in accordance with the Word of God, but we see a continual know saying it in the word of man. This is what we say and this is relevant.

Pastor Ray (00:16:27) - And so I'll try not to digress of what we're seeing and why a study in the anti Christ is so important because as we read on so Day of Man, day of the Lord, man has a say. God's going to come and say the final say. Let no one deceive you. Verse three by any means for the day will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed. The son of perdition, verse four, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that He is God. Paul saying, I know a letter came. I know you're confused. I know people are saying that the Rapture has happened. What Paul's going to use is logic. Logic is good. Logic helps us piece things together. So let no one ever say to void logic. I believe God is extremely logic. He says to us, Let all things be done decently in order, and he gives us this place.

Pastor Ray (00:17:29) - That logic plays itself together. And here's what Paul is saying. There's an A, then a B, then a C, C cannot happen until A and B happens. The man of sin cannot come and

start promoting this tribulation period that you think you're in church of Thessalonica unless A and B happens and A and B has to happen is that there has to be a falling away going back to what Jesus says and a restrainer being removed. And we're going to talk about that next week because I've decided it's more relevant to talk about that next week as we talk about who this Antichrist is this week. But simply. The fallen away is going to be the church. It's going to be a great falling away of the church. Timothy actually tells us that some will depart from the faith. I see a great author came out this week, books of hundreds of thousands, and he just became another one of the ones that we see it almost as monthly now. I mean, prominent people who were in big spotlight, making big influences, selling lots of books or selling lots of worship CDs.

Pastor Ray (00:18:42) - He came on and says, I can no longer believe. What does that do with all of the books? The man who wrote I Kissed Dating Goodbye. Oh, boy. That's a million bookseller and then some. He came out a few months ago and said, I can no longer believe. What does that say about all of his books and everything that he says? And I try not to digress again, but we'll pick this up next week in the church is the falling away. And we talk about that every month in our prophecy update. And secondly, the restrainer is taken away now. Psalm 139 says that where can I go that your spirit does not reside? That's the Holy Spirit. There's no place that the Spirit of God will not ever be heaven. Earth, hell. Spirit of God. So I believe what the restrainer is. It's actually, believe it or not, it's the salt of the earth. It's us, the spirit of God in us, the taking away, the little influence we have still is restraining from the man of sin.

Pastor Ray (00:19:45) - Coming when the restrainer, the Holy Spirit inside a church is taken away, then the man of sin will be revealed. See? Can't happen to A and B, Paul uses logic here. Well, who is this Antichrist? Who opposes himself. Now. Paul describes him as a man of sin. A son of perdition. Here in verse three, then in verse eight, he's going to call him the lawless one. Now, our brother John, he's the one who uses the word anti Christ. Paul speaks of him as in characteristic. John calls him literally by name, but the two are the same note takers. First, John 218 little children in the last hour. As you have heard that the anti Christ this is Capital A is coming even now many anti Christ small a have come by which we know that is the last hour. So Paul gives us the characteristics of who this man is and what we're going to see just for a quick, clear understanding. Judas was called Who? The son of perdition.

Pastor Ray (00:21:01) - Perdition means waist. It says, when Satan took up Judas, Satan filled Judas, Judas became the son of perdition, the son of waste. Well, that's what's going to happen to this Antichrist. He's going to come across as a man. And as we said, we're going to see a man of peace. Then we're going to see the peace breaker. He's going to come as a man and then he's going to be filled with the devil himself and become the devil incarnate. And we're going to talk more about that in the day and weeks ahead of us. But there was two falls back in Genesis. There's Adam and Eve's fall in the garden. But Satan fell from heaven. Oh, Lucifer, I watched you fall. Jesus would say. Isaiah 14. How you have fallen from heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning. How you were cut down to the ground. You who weakened the nations. For you have said in your heart. I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.

Pastor Ray (00:22:09) - I will also sit in the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north. I will send above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the most high. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol. Hell to the lowest depths of the pit. Back in Genesis, there's the fall of man. But there's the fall of Satan. And then the war begins. Genesis, Chapter three, verse 15. You see a small seed and a big seed. And I will put enmity war between you and the woman and between your seed small and her seed capital. Speaking of the Messiah, he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel. Satan's going to snippet Jesus's heel on the cross. But when Jesus rises from the dead, he's going to crush Satan's head and sin and death. So here comes this anti Christ, as John calls him, anti in the Greek it simply means instead of or against and the Antichrist, he's going to come on and he's going to present himself of instead of Christ.

Pastor Ray (00:23:15) - He's going to present himself clearly as we know him, the people who see him as against Christ. But notice what's big and different. He's not the opposite. He is to us, but to the world. He's going to look like a peacemaker. He's going to look like a grace giver. He's going to look like at a Jehovah Jireh giver supplier. He's not going to come across at first. What we see is he's going to come across as a peacemaker. Revelation six When the four Horsemen come out, the first one comes riding on a white horse. He looks just like Christ and he's going to come like he's coming in peace, but he's going to eventually turn into this man of war.

Radio Host (00:24:09) - Thanks for tuning in for today's edition of Light of the Word. Pastor Ray Bolas has been teaching through the New Testament Book of Second Thessalonians. A letter penned by the Apostle Paul. We pray the Holy Spirit has opened your heart and mind to new things today, and that you allow it to change you thoroughly.

Radio Host (00:24:28) - If you have any questions or would like to request prayer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. You can reach us at 443995 3282. Once again, give us a call at 443995 3282 or if you prefer email, you can also reach us at mail at [ccaac.org](mailto:ccaac.org). Talk light of the word is a Ministry of Calvary Chapel and Arundel, and you can learn more about this by visiting our website. Just go to [ccaac.org](http://ccaac.org) and click on about to discover who we are and what we believe as a church family. You're welcome to join us for services on Sunday as well. We meet weekly to study God's Word together and worship Him for all he's done and continues to do in our lives. We also gather for a time of prayer on Tuesday evenings. Find all the information you need at our website [ccaac.org](http://ccaac.org). That's all for our time with you. Today has come to an end, but be sure to join Pastor Ray next time right here on light of the word illuminating the heart of God.