

How to Avoid the Lie | 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

INTRODUCTION:

- The Great Lie to Come

The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with every kind of miracle, both signs and wonders serving the lie, and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a strong delusion so that they will believe the lie, so that all will be condemned — those who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.

-- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (CSB)

- Jesus also warned about great lies.

"If anyone tells you then, 'See, here is the Messiah!' or, 'Over here!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note: I have told you in advance. So if they tell you, 'See, he's in the wilderness!' don't go out; or, 'See, he's in the storerooms!' do not believe it. -- Matthew 24:23-26 (CSB)

"In wartime, truth is so precious that she should be attended by a bodyguard of lies." Winston Churchill

"We are at war; truth is so damaging we must hide it with a bodyguard of lies." The Devil

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will also know my Father. -- John 14:6-7 (CSB)

- We live in a world (culture) that is suffering from a great absence of tangible truth.
- Children are being taught that truth is relative and is a concept we can construct ourselves. (Might be true for you, but not me.)

You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. -- John 8:44 (CSB)

How can we avoid being caught up in The Lie?

1. Claim your **IDENTITY** in Christ (Know who you are) verse 13

- You are **LOVED** by the Lord. (Are there more important words in all the world?)

*What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. **Who can separate us from the love of Christ?** Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who **loved us.** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from **the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** -- **Romans 8:31-39 (CSB)***

- You were **CHOSEN** for salvation from the beginning of time.

*After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! -- **Revelation 7:9-11 (CSB)***

- You have been sanctified (made holy) by God's Spirit and the **TRUTH.**

*For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One. -- **Ephesians 1:4-6 (CSB)***

2. Make the true Gospel everything in your life (**KNOW** what you believe) vss.14-15

- You were called to salvation by this true Gospel.

*I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him! -- **Galatians 1:6-9 (CSB)***

- This true Gospel gave you the same glory Jesus has today and forever.

If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. -- 1 Peter 4:14 (CSB)

- Stand firm on the true Gospel taught by His evangelists and His Word.

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths. But as for you, exercise self-control in everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. -- 2 Timothy 4:2-5 (CSB)

3. Ask for God's grace to help you (Know where you find your strength) vs. 17

- Help you remember what His love has done so far
- Help you keep your eyes on eternity
- Help you stay encouraged in your heart
- Help you remain strong in your service and witness

But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen. -- 2 Timothy 4:17-18 (CSB)

Actions Steps to Avoid the Great Lie:

1. Learn the list of your promised position in Christ. (Bookmarks)
2. Study the Word daily (read through it in a year). (Life Bible App)
3. Live the Exchanged Life. (Go to Word One to One Training)

"Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. -- John 14:12-14 (CSB)