

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12  
The Lawless Man  
April 14, 2024  
Sermon 2

Good morning! Welcome to church! It is good to see you all!

**Love gathering / Celebrate goodness of God / Willingness to stick with us ☐**

I love gathering with all of you corporately to celebrate the goodness of God. His willingness to stick with us despite the depravity of our hearts and waywardness of our desires yet He still relentlessly seeks us out to draw us back to him.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week of 4-week series of 2 Thes. / Main text 2 Thes. 2:1-12**

We are in our 2<sup>nd</sup> week of our 4-week series of 2 Thessalonians. Today we are going to take a look at the first 12 verses of chapter 2.

**Norman Triplett / known for / performing 1<sup>st</sup> social psychological study**

A man named Norman Triplett was most known for performing one of the first social psychological studies.

**Social psychology / Scientific study / thoughts, feelings, behaviors**

Social psychology is the scientific study of how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.

**Triplett's study / racing cyclist / compared times when racing / clock / peers**

In Triplett's study, he looked at racing cyclists and compared their times when racing against the clock versus when they raced against their peers.

**These types of studies / Social Facilitation / Cyclists vs peers / better times / vs clock**

These types of studies are known as Social Facilitation which show that cyclists who race against their peers will have better times than racing only against the clock.

**Further studies / prove this to be the case consistently**

Further studies have been performed over the last century that has proven this phenomenon to ring true consistently.

**This phenomenon / confirms how God intends us to live / in community / not iso**

This phenomenon really just confirms how God intended mankind to live their lives. The Bible is clear that we are to live in community with others and not to live a life of isolation.

**When we live Christian faith / community/ spurred on, sanctified, sharpened, encouraged**

When we live out our Christian faith amongst a community of believers we are spurred on, sanctified, sharpened and encouraged to grow in our faith like we wouldn't if we did it in isolation.

**Just finished 1 Thes. / Theme of Paul's letters / encouragement**

We just finished our series in 1 Thessalonians a few weeks ago and the letter from Paul to the Thessalonica church was all about encouragement.

**Not only did 1<sup>st</sup> letter encourage to walk in the faith / do so in community**

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Not only did his 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the church encourage them to continue to walk in the faith but to do this while living in community.

**Even Paul wished / in person / community / to encourage**

Even Paul spent time in his 1<sup>st</sup> letter explaining how he wished he could have been with them also in community to encourage them in person.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

<sup>17</sup> But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way.

**Conversations with people / resisted church / hang ups with people in church**

I have had conversations with people before who have resisted coming to church because of hang ups they had with people in the church.

**God calls for this community however!**

1 Thessalonians is all about the church being encouraged in the Lord by other fellow believers.

**Even though Paul / couldn't make it in person / Satan hindered / They were still encouraged**

Even though Paul could not make the trek to see the church because of his hindrance by Satan, Paul, Timothy and Silas were still encouraged by the report he got from Timothy that the church was continuing to stand firm.

1 Thessalonians 3:8-10

<sup>8</sup> For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

**Our series theme in 2 Thessalonians is Standing Firm.**

Lets read our main text this morning in

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup> not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup> Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup> He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

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<sup>5</sup> Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, <sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup> and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

**Pray with me!**

**Kevlar story**

"Sunrise was dawning when Los Angeles motorcycle police officer Bob Vernon saw a red pickup truck speed through a stop sign. He turned on his emergency lights and radioed that he was in pursuit. The pickup pulled over, and the officer approached. The officer said, 'Good morning, sir, may I see your--' "He never finished the sentence. The driver shoved a gun toward the police officer's chest and fired from just inches away. The cop was knocked seven feet away. A few seconds later, the officer stood up, pulled his service revolver, and fired twice. The first bullet went through the open window and smashed the windshield. The second tore through the door and ripped into the driver's left leg. "'Don't shoot!' the thief screamed, throwing the gun and sack of money out the pickup window. What saved the police officer's life was dozens of layers of Kevlar, the super strong fabric used for bulletproof vests. Only three-eighths of an inch thick, Kevlar can stop bullets cold."

**Ephesians 6:13**

Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**I just mentioned that our series theme is Standing Firm.**

**The significance of standing firm / when enemy attacks / utmost importance**

The significance of standing firm when the enemy attacks is of the utmost importance.

**As we read in main text / we see enemy can attack w/o moments notice**

As we read in our main text this morning, we saw that the enemy can attack without a moments notice.

**The enemy will attack during a routine task.**

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The enemy's attack will be predetermined that is why our readiness must also be responsive.

**As we saw this morning / most of our text deals with antichrist**

As we will see this morning, a large part of our text is dealing with what we call the Antichrist.

**Let's breakdown our text this morning:**

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup>not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

In the Bible, the 'Day of the Lord' is used in two ways:

1. It can mean the end times (beginning with Christ's birth and continuing until today).
2. It can mean the final judgement day (in the future).

**False teachers / saying judgement day had come / man waiting expectantly** ☐

Because some false teachers were saying that judgement day had come, many believers were waiting expectantly for their vindication and for relief from suffering.

**Pastor Steve mentioned last week / people / lazy, giving up jobs / expecting Christ anytime**

Pastor Steve mentioned this last week that people were becoming lazy, to the point of giving up their jobs because they were expecting Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming anytime.

But judgement day had not yet come; other events would have to happen first.

**False prophesy reports, letters / distributed / claiming divine revelation / claiming it was Paul**

False prophesy reports or letters were being distributed by someone claiming to have had a divine revelation, someone passing on a teaching as though it were from Paul or someone distributing a letter supposedly written by Paul.

**Paul suspected / letter forged in his name / we see this as he closes out letter**

Paul seems to have suspected that a letter forged in his name was circulating. We see this in the caution he takes in closing out this letter in

**2 Thessalonians 3:17**

<sup>17</sup>I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

**Christian church / threat to godless world / church had to be alert to surroundings**

The Christian church was a threat to the godless world that resided around them. Because this threat was so immanent the church had to be alert to what was going on.

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**The fact Christians worshiped / one God / excluded them from community gatherings** □

The fact that Christians worshiped only one God excluded them from participation in community gatherings, **which often focused on other gods.**

**Church's custom / meeting secretly / raised suspicions of disloyalty / Roman Empire**

The church's custom of meeting secretly also raised suspicions of disloyalty to the Roman Empire.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

<sup>3</sup> Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

**Man of sin / man of lawlessness / aka son of destruction / son of perdition / abomination of desolation / antichrist**

The "man of sin" or the "man of lawlessness" also known as the "son of destruction", the "son of perdition" or the "abomination of desolation" used in scripture is what we most often refer to today as the Antichrist.

**Throughout history / individuals who epitomized evil / hostile to everything Christ stands for**

Throughout history there have been individuals who epitomized evil and who were hostile to everything Christ stands for.

1 John 4:3

<sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

2 John 7

<sup>7</sup> I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

**Antichrists / have lived in every generation / continue to work evil**

These antichrists have lived in every generation and will continue to work their evil.

**Just before Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming / man of sin / man of lawlessness / son of destruction / son of perdition**

Then just before Christ's second coming, "the man of sin, the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, the son of perdition will arise.

**This man / sum total of all evilness / all hatred of God / all lawlessness / Satans tool** □

This man will be the sum total of all evilness, all hatred of God, all lawlessness. He will be Satan's tool **equipped with Satan's power as it says in verse 9.**

**This lawless man will be the antichrist.**

**The antichrist is an adversary of the Messiah, used by Satan to oppose the work of God.**

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**Appropriately named antichrist / stands against Christ / operates contrary to Him** □

Appropriately named, the antichrist stands against Christ and operates contrary to Him by speaking lies and by persecuting God's people.

In addition, he seeks to stand in the place of Christ, garnering to himself the worship due to God alone.

**The spirit and work of antichrist manifest / w/in church & world**

The spirit and work of the antichrist manifests itself both within the church and in the world at large.

John says that many antichrists have already come to influence the gathering of church body.

1 John 2:18

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

The antichrist lies about who Jesus is and denies the truth about His coming in the flesh.

1 John 2:22

<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

**Satan / began work against God in heaven as an angel / he rebelled taking many angels**

Satan began to work against God when he was in heaven and he was still an angel. He worked against God by rebelling against Him, taking many of the angels with him.

They became demons and literally they all came to earth and brought the rebellion down here.

And so it begins...

**In Genesis / Satan's encounter with Adam & Eve in garden / fall of human race / 1<sup>st</sup> attack**

In Genesis we see that Satan had an encounter with Adam and Eve which resulted in a fall of the human race. This was the first attack on God by Satan.

In Genesis 6 we see demons cohabiting amongst the people.

The sons of God, identified almost exclusively as angels in Job 1:6, 2:1 and 38:7, saw and took wives of the human race.

This produced an unnatural union that violated the God-ordained order of human marriage and procreation that we see in Genesis 2:24.

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Some have argued that the sons of God were the sons of Seth who cohabitated with the daughters of Cain.

Others suggest they were perhaps human kings wanting to build harems.

The passage however puts strong emphasis on the angelic vs. human contrast.

**Chapter 8 / rebellion so bad / not one good person / God drowned world but Noah**

In chapter 8 the rebellion was so bad that there was not one good person nowhere at any time so God drowned the entire human race except for Noah to start over again.

**Exodus 1 / Pharaoh / instrument of Satan / all male children killed / wipe out purposes of God / extinguishing Israelite people**

In Exodus 1 we see Pharaoh, an instrument of Satan, attempt to have all of the male children killed. This would wipe out the purposes of God by extinguishing the Israelite people for whom the Messiah is to come.

Satan later tried to break the royal line of Christ when Jehoram killed all of his brothers in 2 Chronicles 21.

**Royal line / reduced to 1 son / 1 son had sons / Arabians came and killed all but 1**

The royal line at this point was reduced to 1 son. That one had sons and then the Arabians came to the camp and killed all of the sons but 1.

**Youngest son / Ahaziah, 22 y/o ruled for a year / counseled by wicked mother Athaliah**

The youngest, Ahaziah, 22 years old, ruled for a year noted in 2 Chronicles 22 and was counseled by his wicked mother Athaliah.

**Messianic line down to one person / Ahaziah severely wounded / Messianic line hung by a breath**

At this point the Messianic line is down to one person when Ahaziah is severely wounded. Now the Messianic line hung by a breath.

**Ahaziah recovered / Later was killed / not before sons / for 6 years hopes & purposes of God rested on one life**

Ahaziah recovered and was later killed but not before he had sons. For about 6 years the hopes of the world and the purposes of God rested on one life.

And God saved that life. And the Messianic line continued.

We remember that Herod had killed all of the babies in Jerusalem.

**Satan and Jesus in the desert**

Satan tried to destroy Jesus through temptation in the desert by getting him to bow down to him.

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**Good Friday / Peter keeping Christ from cross**

We read on Good Friday how Peter tried to keep Jesus from the cross by doing the work of Satan.

**Herod then had Christ killed.**

**The Romans tried to keep him in the tomb.**

**The antichrist spirit is all throughout the pages of scripture.**

**Today we see the spirit of the antichrist taking root in our governments and our communities.**

**Danger / to label any person as antichrist to predict Christ's coming**

It is dangerous, however, to label any person as the antichrist and to try to predict Christ's coming based on that assumption.

**Paul mentions antichrist / not to ID / so we might be ready for the attacks on faith**

Paul mentions the antichrist, not so we might identify him specifically, but so we might be ready for anything that threatens our faith.

**If our faith is strong / no need to worry with what lies ahead / lawless man already defeated by God / no matter how powerful or terrible**

If our faith is strong, we don't need to be afraid of what lies ahead, because we know that this lawless man has already been defeated by God, no matter how powerful he becomes or how terrible our situation seems.

**God in control / He will be victorious over antichrist / Our task / be prepared for Christ's return / spread gospel / so more will be prepared**

God is in control, and he will be victorious over the antichrist. Our task is to be prepared for Christ's return and to spread the gospel so that even more people will also be prepared.

**When Paul first wrote to Thes church / still in danger / losing hope in 2<sup>nd</sup> coming**

When Paul first wrote to the Thessalonians, they were in danger of losing hope in the second coming.

**Shifted to opposite extreme / 2<sup>nd</sup> coming / any minute / Paul restore balance / described events that would happen before Christ's return**

Then they shifted to the opposite extreme—some of them thought that Jesus would be coming at any minute. Paul tried to restore the balance by describing certain events that would happen before Christ's return.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4**

**<sup>4</sup> He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**

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The Apostle Paul draws here on

Daniel 11:36-37

<sup>36</sup> “The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. <sup>37</sup> He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

The antichrist will insist that he alone is God.

**Temple of God / interpreted as church , heavenly temple, Jerusalem temple**

The temple of God has been often interpreted as the church, the heavenly temple and the Jerusalem temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:5

<sup>5</sup> Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

The phrase “I use to tell you these things” implies the importance of the lesson taught at an earlier time.

**Past mentions of repetitions / worthy of attention**

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago to pick up on any repetitious points in scripture as this is worthy of our attention.

**Paul / Taught often / future plans of God / Reminds them of issues / proves false prophets wrong**

Paul on numerous occasions had taught them the details of God's future plans. Here, he reminded them of the issues that proved the false teachers wrong about the day of the Lord.

**Revealing of antichrist / precedes day of the Lord / Taught not revealed – not day**

Paul had before told them that the revealing of the Antichrist preceded the day of the Lord; since he has not yet been revealed they could not possibly be in that day.

2 Thessalonians 2:6

<sup>6</sup> And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

Who is it that holds back the lawless one? We do not know for certain.

Three possibilities have been suggested:

1. Government and law, which help to curb evil.
2. The ministry and activity of the church and the effects of the Gospel
3. The Holy Spirit

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**Not clear on who / will not restrain forever / should not fear / God far stronger ☐**

The scripture is not clear on who the restrainer is, only that he will not restrain forever. But we should not fear this time when the restraint is removed – God is far stronger **than the man of lawlessness and God will save His people.**

2 Thessalonians 2:7

**<sup>7</sup>For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.**

**Secret power of lawlessness already at work / antichrist already at work**

The phrase “the secret power of lawlessness is already at work” means that the work that this antichrist will do is already going on.

**Secret means something no one can discover, but something God will reveal.**

**Lawlessness is hidden, subtle, underlying force / all sin springs**

Lawlessness is the hidden, subtle, underlying force from which all sin springs.

**Civilization / veneer of decency / law enforcement, education, science, reason ☐**

Civilization still has a veneer of decency through law enforcement, education, science and reason **although each one of those has been under attack.**

**Although horrified / criminal acts / haven't seen real horror of complete lawlessness / happens when one who hold it back / possibly the H.S. / out of way**

Although we are horrified by criminal acts, we have yet to see the real horror of complete lawlessness. This will happen when “the one who now holds it back (possibly the Holy Spirit), is taken out of the way.

**Why will God allow this to happen?**

**Show people / nations own sinfulness / show them true alternative to lordship of Christ**

To show people and nations their own sinfulness, and to show them by bitter experience the true alternative to the lordship of Christ.

**People w/o God / can act no better than vicious animals / Lawlessness to extent / already going on / man of lawlessness not yet revealed**

People totally without God can act no better than vicious animals. Lawlessness, to a certain extent, is already going on, but the man of lawlessness has not yet been revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

**<sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,**

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**Once restraint removed / Satan will finally be allowed to fulfill desire / imitate God / Indwelling a man / perform will as Jesus did God's will**

Once this divine restraint is removed, Satan, who has been promoting the spirit of lawlessness will finally be allowed to fulfill his desire to imitate God by indwelling a man who will perform his will as Jesus did God's will.

**Matthew 24:24**

**24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**

**Paul stresses vigilance, readiness, being equipped / Great deceiver is good at it**

This is why the Apostle Paul stresses so much for all of us to be vigilant, ready, equipped. The Great Deceiver is great because he is good at it.

**Senior sober night**

When I graduated from high school the PTA puts on a senior sober night in which we all load up on a bus after graduation and we are taken away to an all-night event with the purpose of giving the newly graduates a safe place to celebrate their immediate thrust into the real world.

I found it interesting that at our senior night, one of the segments of the night consisted of an illusionist. Other senior nights I have chaperoned at have included a hypnotist.

I think back to these events, and though they were fun and the alternative was possibly many high school graduates getting into trouble and making poor choices, I thought it was odd that our send offs are illusionists and hypnotists.

**Illusionist deceives the eye**

The illusionist is well trained in deceiving the eye to make the brain question what the eye has seen. The brain reasons with the eye but can't come up with a logical reason for what took place.

I remember at my senior night how much all of us were enamored with the deception that took place before our eyes. The illusions wowed us and caused us to question everything we had known to be true in regard to the laws of science.

**Hypnotist put volunteers in trance**

The hypnotist called up handfuls of willing participants to be willing to fall into a trance and given suggestions that would cause them to say or do something out of the ordinary.

**Antichrist will use same tricks**

I imagine the antichrist and the impacts of evil will use some of the same tactics to deceive people.

**Deception and trances consume people / think / act / feel**

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Today we see deception and trances consume people into the way they think, act and feel.

**Satan / using people / partake / endorse / distribute evil**

Satan is using people today to influence people into partaking, endorsing and distributing evil.

This also fits God's plan for the consummation of evil and the judgement of the day of the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:10

<sup>10</sup>and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

All those who will not be saved by Christ are those who will believe the lies of evil.

John 8:41-44

<sup>41</sup>You are doing the works of your own father."

"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. <sup>43</sup>Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. <sup>44</sup>You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The unsaved will perish in the deception because of the Satan-imposed blindness to the truth of the saving gospel.

John 3:19-20

<sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

2 Corinthians 4:4

<sup>4</sup>The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The god of this age has put many into a trance. They are hypnotized by the captivity of sin.

**Recall back to Hosea / Chapter 5 / Israelites had a hunger for evil / lust for a counterfeit**

If you recall back to this past winter when we were going through Hosea, we saw in Hosea chapter 5 that the Israelites had a hunger for evil. A lust after the counterfeit to God.

Hosea 5:4

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<sup>4</sup>“Their deeds do not permit them  
to return to their God.

A spirit of prostitution is in their heart;  
they do not acknowledge the LORD.

**Hypnotized / lusts of sin / not capable of returning to God or acknowledging Him**

In other words, they are hypnotized by the lusts of their sin and they are not capable of returning to God or acknowledging him for that matter.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

<sup>11</sup>For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup>and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

**Patterns in scripture / God will allow evil to be fully handed over / hearts of people so hardened / sin is all they can see**

Again, we see these patterns in scripture. God will eventually allow the evil to be fully handed over when the hearts of the people are so hardened that it is all they can see.

**Reminder in Hosea / Israelites continued to lust after human king / God was only king they needed / never enough / sought after evil human kings**

Again, back to a reminder in Hosea when the Israelites continued to search after human kings when God was assuring them that He was the only King they needed...it was never enough for them, however. Not only did they seek after human kings, but they were evil human kings.

Hosea 13:9-11

<sup>9</sup>He destroys you, O Israel,  
for you are against me, against your helper.

<sup>10</sup>Where now is your king, to save you in all your cities?  
Where are all your rulers—  
those of whom you said,

“Give me a king and princes”?

<sup>11</sup>I gave you a king in my anger,  
and I took him away in my wrath.

Romans 1:32

<sup>32</sup>Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

**God gives us freedom to turn backs on him / believe Satan’s lies / no to truth = consequences of sin**

God gives us the freedom to turn our backs on Him and believe Satan’s lies. If we say no to the truth, we will experience the consequences of our sin.

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Today this truth is hard for people to swallow.

How can such a loving God be so cruel to punish people like he does?

God gives us all the opportunity to know his truth and receive it or reject it.

**As Christ approached / hung on cross / people fell into both camps**

Even as Christ approached and finally hung on the cross on Good Friday a couple of weeks ago we saw people fall into both of those camps.

-We saw those who betrayed Christ in his final moments

-We saw those who tried to prevent him from the cross

-We saw him beat, tortured, and mocked by people who rejected him

-We saw one man who hung next to him receive Christ's salvation while the man on the other side rejected him in their final moments.

God gives us the free gift of salvation. All we have to do is receive it.

Jesus says in John 14:6

John 14:6

<sup>6</sup>... "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Gospel message**

Between you and the Lord this morning. All you have to do to accept this gift is confess with your mouth that Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead and the Bible says that you will be saved.

**Antichrist spirit is what is trying to distract us from this truthful Gospel message**

**Pray**

**Home Group Questions:**

1. When was a time you had to stand firm in your faith in a time of testing?
2. How have you personally experienced the spirit of the antichrist working?

**Read Matthew 24:24**

3. In the sermon this week, Pastor Nick recounted the ways throughout Biblical generations where Satan has sought to overthrow the purposes of God. Where have you seen Satanic attacks on the church as a whole today?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

The Lawless Man

April 14, 2024

Sermon 2

4. **The spirit of the antichrist is a master of deception, just like the illustration of the illusionist who deceives the eye. What specific examples can you give of the deceiver being less and less subtle with how he now deceives?**
5. **Discuss specific ways that you can protect you and your family from the fiery arrows of the enemy.**