



**Rumors, Lies, and False Teachers  
On Eclipses, the Day of the Lord, and the Truth of the Word.  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

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Acts 17:11

“Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.” (NASB 2020)

Don't be duped.



I really wasn't intending to go back over this section again since we covered it as we discussed the doctrine of the rapture of the church. But we all were just lied to massively by the so-called Christian press pretty much on the same topic that wound up causing the Thessalonians so much confusion.

So here we go again. A naturally occurring astronomical event, turned into a "sign in the heavens" and then appropriated by those who have a need to sell books and acquire followers. Thessalonica 2.0.

Well, we're all still here. I say that because the rumors rolling around the internet was that the solar eclipse was a sign of the second coming of Jesus Christ and that this nation was doomed to judgment sooner rather than later. A friend, who also happens to be a Calvary Chapel pastor, texted me in order to tell me he was in the air going up and texting me on the way up. He said if I was receiving this and responded, then I may have a problem.

But what we had happen in the lead up to the eclipse, which, by the way, eclipses happen with great regularity and paths can be predicted hundreds of years into the future.

All you have to do is know a bit about orbital mechanics and math and you too can be in the know. Or cheat like I do and have an astronomy software package.

What we had happen is the same thing that happened to the folks in Thessalonica. Someone decided to exaggerate or down right lie, and yes there were some also doing that regarding the eclipse. The false teachers in Thessalonica though had some in the church believing that the persecution they were undergoing was due to them missing the rapture of the church and now being in the middle of the day of the Lord.

Those in Thessalonica, as we have stated before in our study, were all new and baby believers at best and they were still learning about the Lord.

But on the flip side looking at today, we have folks who know better, they know what the Bible says, yet they made the decision to sensationalize something that is normally just cool to watch, into Judgement Day and everyone in the United States is going to die.

That is a true statement, just not today. Jesus is still in the business of saving the lost and will be so up to the moment He says come up here.

The bottom line, the rumors about the eclipse were all pretty bogus. You would have thought we learned our lessons with the four blood moons in 2014-2015. Hundreds of thousands of books, in fact two of them, were sold then tying the Blood Moons into judgement and the second coming. They were both bestsellers and both completely wrong.

What happened was simple. Biblical illiteracy is rampant in our nation. When someone shows up and tells you they have decoded what the Bible teaches on these signs, we all perk up to listen, but we must also engage Acts 17:11. Most don't.

Several sections of scripture were used then and now, just in the past month. The same error was made today as in Thessalonica.

Here is the deal, the Thessalonians were taught correctly by Paul and Silas. But then someone showed up and convinced these baby believers that what Paul had said had happened and they were now in the Tribulation.



They may have used some of the four very popular scriptures misused by the “prophets” warning us about the blood moons as well as the eclipse. Here is what was “used” as proof texts for judgment but notice the context.

Joel 2:30–31

““And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.” (ESV)

Pre-Day of the Lord or Pre-Rapture? Actually, post rapture, end of the Tribulation, Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:29–31

““Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (ESV)

Post rapture, Day of the Lord. Second Coming of Jesus. See Revelation 19.

Luke 21:25–28

““And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”” (ESV)

Day of the Lord, Second Coming of Christ, all post-rapture.

Acts 2:19–20

“And I will perform wonders in the sky above and miraculous signs on the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will be changed to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Paul quoting Joel and pointing to the post-rapture Day of the Lord and the Second Coming of Christ.

And that isn’t all, there is also material in Revelation to use as a proof text as well, if that is your thing.

Revelation 6:12–14

“Then I looked when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and a huge earthquake took place; the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the full moon became blood red; and the stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when shaken by a fierce wind. The sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Once again, post-rapture, in the middle of the Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus. All of these were used, and none of them are applicable to this event. Not one.

We simply are missing the point by latching onto the next astronomical event to come rolling down the road. Blood moons, solar eclipses, solar storms, meteors, comets, planet X, Nibiru, coronal mass



ejections, novas, super novas, and on and on. Yes, the Lord will use them, but we must remain focused on the text and what it says of the when.

I, for one, am much more concerned if we have an eclipse when we are not supposed to be having one. For example, like during the crucifixion. There was darkness for three hours, but no eclipse. It was Passover, a full moon, not a new moon.

### Julius Africanus

On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun. For the Hebrews celebrate the passover on the 14th day according to the moon, and the passion of our Saviour falls on the day before the passover; but an eclipse of the sun takes place only when the moon comes under the sun. And it cannot happen at any other time but in the interval between the first day of the new moon and the last of the old, that is, at their junction: how then should an eclipse be supposed to happen when the moon is almost diametrically opposite the sun? Let that opinion pass however; let it carry the majority with it; and let this portent of the world be deemed an eclipse of the sun, like others a portent only to the eye. Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Cæsar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour to the ninth—manifestly that one of which we speak. But what has an eclipse in common with an earthquake, the rending rocks, and the resurrection of the dead, and so great a perturbation throughout the universe? Surely no such event as this is recorded for a long period. But it was a darkness induced by God, because the Lord happened then to suffer. (Africanus 1886, 136-137)

Yes, Jesus is coming for His church in an event called the rapture. It is imminent and could happen at any moment and there is no sign to take place beforehand.

Now, there are signs of the second coming of Jesus. We do indeed see some of those taking place and the convergence of those signs all seems to be pointing at something taking place very soon. If we know what the scriptures say, then we know, there is no way an eclipse or a series of eclipses point to judgement or the second coming.

But the point is this. We need to be about the King's business and not get distracted along the way.

Luke 19:12–13

“Therefore he said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. And he summoned ten of his slaves, gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business with these until I come back.’” (NET 2nd ed.)

We are to be about the business of our calling. Doing business until He comes back.

2 Timothy 4:1–4

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**” (NKJV)

In Thessalonica, the false teaching had hit a tipping point, confusion was becoming more widespread and there was fear being reflected in the body as there were those who, because of false teaching, believed that they had missed the rapture and were in the Day of the Lord.



This is so like what we just encountered with the eclipse it isn't even funny. What does Paul want us to know?

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2

“Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit, or a message, or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.” (NASB 2020)

It appears that someone from outside the local body had come to town and they were in the process of providing their own spin on what it was that Paul and the team had taught. Paul is covering all of his bases regarding the source of the lie.

He explains this lie came from one, or all of three different sources. He is not clear himself what the source was. The first one requires us to understand that we are always in a spiritual war and the enemy will use all options to include “false prophecy” in the church. “Misinformation can come from a spirit other than the Holy Spirit.” (Stern 1996, 2 Th, 2:2)

John warned the church about this very problem.

Coming from pagan backgrounds and having experienced the demonic, you would think the church would be well aware to test what the spirits, who are talking through a believer, when they prophesy. But that was not always the case.

We tend to all do the first part of Acts 17:11 and listen to what people say, but the testing part, the checking to see if what is said also lines up with scripture the church is weak on.

1 John 4:1–3

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world.” (CSB)

How do we do this today? How do we test the spirits when the problem is the internet, books, podcasts, radio and television. Not all of which comes from the ministry of Calvary Chapel or a tested source.

None of us do it as well as we should. It is an issue of volume and time.

I remember, years ago now, that it was routine to check out the books that folks wanted to use for small groups. The reason, popular Christian books, at times, are nothing more than heresy. They teach a different Jesus and a different gospel, and this is still the case today.

I was approached about the use of a book on the four blood moons which led to me researching the topic and saying, “no.” Here at Calvary, as we continue to grow, and begin small groups, we will not be using popular Christian books as a source for study. Not at all.

The moment you do, you open the door to false doctrines, heretical ideas, and strange thinking about the Holy Spirit and the supernatural. You wind up going down rabbit holes that are fun to look at, but do not result in growth at all.



There is a place for fringe studies, but the church is a place for discipling and becoming more like Jesus. We will continue to major on the word.

Yes, we want to understand the supernatural as it is important and necessary to understand the Bible.

If they had issues with this in Thessalonica, you know we do. Our culture is so anti-supernatural it isn't even funny. We must rationalize everything and subject it to science and the rational mind. The problem, when the reality of the unseen realm hits us, we may become overly impressed and begin to attribute credence to what someone is saying simply because they are providing a prophecy. Because of this, it is easy to deceive in the guise of prophecy, and there are many so called prophets today doing exactly that. Paul explicitly warns the church of this in Thessalonica and then provides instruction to Corinth.

1 Corinthians 14:29–33

“Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should evaluate. But if something has been revealed to another person sitting there, the first prophet should be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that everyone may learn and everyone may be encouraged. And the prophets' spirits are subject to the prophets, since God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,” (CSB)

Testing the spirits is the job of leadership, but not just those of us in leadership. It is the job of the body of Christ. Those who have the gift of discernment are seriously relied on here.

All prophecy is to be judged by Scriptural standards. It is never to be received just because it is dramatic or given by a certain person. We trust in the principle that God will never contradict Himself, and we know what He has already said in His Word. 2 Peter 1:20–21 tells us true prophecy is never of any private interpretation. This means that there will be agreement and confirmation from the body of Christ, though perhaps (or probably) not everyone will agree or confirm. (Guzik 2013, 1 Jn 4:1)

True prophecy and true teaching will always support scripture, not deny or question it. It will also always present a true Jesus. All of this was a problem in Thessalonica and is a problem for us here today as well.

Jude 4

“For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago, have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.” (CSB)

Recapping, test the spirits. Satan is a liar and will try and scam his way in whenever possible.

The second source would be a written word or message. Someone may have arrived in town purporting to be carrying a message from Paul or another and then proceeded to teach authoritatively using that as a basis for the false teaching. They would swoop in, provide the false documents, teach, and then leave after everyone has heard thinking this was an authoritative word.

Those who are false prophets, when they show up in town with their Holy Spirit miracle services today, are the 21st century equivalents to what Paul was dealing with.

There are those who purport to be prophets and teachers, supposedly enabled by the Holy Spirit, who then proceed to teach scripture, but they do so by ripping the scripture out of context. Or they will teach concepts that simply are not in the Bible. And the accountability for the “healings” that supposedly take place is not as detailed as you would expect. Yes, God in His sovereignty heals today. But there are some who are scamming us into thinking they do this.



When watching them on television, if you know what you are looking for, you can even see camera angles and scenes of activity that are solely designed to make those watching feel as if they are missing out on what the Lord is doing.

This is slick video marketing designed to make the viewer want to come and participate in person the next time. Oh, and give to be part of it right now. The marketing makes mention of the Lord, but it is more oriented to connecting you with the so-called healer/teacher/prophet there on the screen.

I recently listened to a short teaching someone did on how you can enable the gift of prophecy for yourself. They made it sound simple, just a few steps to follow and you can also be a prophet. Sounds okay, right? But what does the Bible say.

1 Corinthians 12:7–11

“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. **But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.**” (NASB 2020)

The Holy Spirit is the one who does the distributing. This is not a skill you create and develop unless the Spirit does it in you.

We are told to desire the greater gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31) and then leave it to the Holy Spirit. That is called waiting on the Lord and He indeed shows up when we do so. But anytime someone wants to walk you through 3, or 5 or 10 steps to speak or pray in tongues, (depending on which You Tube video you watch,) or steps on how to be a prophet, or how to pray and activate a spiritual gift in you, run, do not walk away.

The one who teaches contrary to the scriptures, adding to it or subtracting from it, is a false teacher. That would be someone using the authority of the scripture, in a manner which abrogates the authority and creates a false gospel and creates confusion in the body.

In Thessalonica, someone may have shown up and said Paul sent them. And then they proceeded to show them 5 reasons why the current persecution they were in were signs they were in the day of the Lord. Then they left, probably right after the offering was taken.

The third source Paul addressed is the bogus letter. Today we not only can receive mail that misleads, but email, text messages and social media messages.

I have been encouraged to have the church fast and then send the money for all the meals to the sender’s ministry. I have also been told how much we would be blessed if we partnered financially with their ministry. And we take PayPal too.

My favorite, I am coming to the United States to do a series of miracle services and the Lord has shown me that your church is to be one of those venues.

That one I was tempted to say yes to, solely to see what they would do when they learned we meet in a Tiki Hut.

I have not received anything that was forged though. Paul is saying that this is a letter meant to mislead from what Paul had taught. It had been forged as if from Paul.



Satan still does this today. One hijacked social media account and soon you too can be shilling for dollars on the internet in the name of your favorite ministry, just now the funds come to you. AI will make it even easier to do. Audio, video, and the written word. We live in an Acts 17:11 world today.

Whatever the source, “this false teaching, which they had swallowed in the short lapse of time since the exit of the Christian heralds from the city and the present, had come to replace the apostolic instruction and had also caused great emotional anguish for the Thessalonians, as the following exhortation suggests. Paul calls the church not to be alarmed or frightened...” (Green 2002, 303)

The source of the lie, may have come from only one of those three sources, or all three. Wherever it came from, the intent was to mislead the saints in Thessalonica into thinking that the day of the Lord had come. The solution to false teaching is truth.

But Ken, I need help on this. I simply do not know the Bible well enough to figure out what is a lie all on my own. But here is the thing, you already have everything you need.

The more we know what the Bible really does teach on a topic, the better we are equipped to recognize and combat the false when it pops up. Yes, there are those times where you will have to do some research and scripture searching to diagnose what it is you are being told. But the Holy Spirit, per Jesus in John 14, 15 and 16, is there to guide us into truth.

You have the tools.

John 14:26

“But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you.” (CEV)

John 15:26

“I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me.” (CEV)

As you begin to dig and search, pray and ask the Lord for His wisdom and for the Holy Spirit to teach you what is true. Then search. He will indeed show you.

John 16:13–14

“The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn’t speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen. The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking my message and telling it to you.” (CEV)

Paul has warned where this false information which has caused confusion and misled the saints has come from. Yes, Satan will indeed use those sources and even coordinate between them to create the impression that the spirit is speaking. Not the Holy Spirit, but a spirit, nevertheless.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

“No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” (NASB 2020)

Here is the thing about deception, it takes two to tango. Deceivers are everywhere these days. I learned, years ago in a forensic interviewing class, that there are involuntary things the body does when it is deceiving to see if you are buying what is being sold.





This is tough to see these days thanks to the internet, radio, pod casts and television. Instead, we must listen carefully and look for tell-tale signs of deception. I use examples when I teach and many times, it is something I had to deal personally with. When someone is trying to mislead you, they will do everything they can to keep themselves out of the message. "Deceptive people often use language that minimizes references to themselves. One way to reduce self-references is to describe events in the passive voice." (Clikeman 2012)

That does not mean they will not put themselves into the picture, they might, that is just a single item. You do not need to be an expert in fraud and deception though to diagnose what is going on. You have the Holy Spirit in you, He is the one who will reveal to you what the truth or lie is.

If you have the gift of spiritual discernment, then you already know something is fishy. If you don't, then pray about what you are being asked to buy into. Look for scripture being used out of context and only snippets here and there. Just because someone uses the Bible, does not mean they are kosher. Satan goes about in disguise.

2 Corinthians 11:12–15

"I will go on doing what I am doing now, in order to keep those other "apostles" from having any reason for boasting and saying that they work in the same way that we do. Those men are not true apostles—they are false apostles, who lie about their work and disguise themselves to look like real apostles of Christ. Well, no wonder! Even Satan can disguise himself to look like an angel of light! So it is no great thing if his servants disguise themselves to look like servants of righteousness. In the end they will get exactly what their actions deserve." (GNB)

Paul's command is a strong prohibition. The compound verb *exapataō* (deceive), a strengthened form of the verb *apataō*, means "to deceive completely," or "to delude." The apostle also used a double negative (*mē tis; mēdena*), saying in effect, "Do not let anyone by any means or any method lead you astray in any way." There was really no excuse for the Thessalonians to have been so gullible, despite the seemingly convincing forged letter. They should have realized that Paul would not abruptly contradict in a letter what he had so recently taught them in person and in his first epistle. The Thessalonians' gullibility was an emotional reaction to the stress of their situation. However, truth is not determined by emotions or circumstances, but by Scripture. Believers must allow biblical truth and theology to rise above every situation. (MacArthur Jr. 2002, 270)

Why would Satan be interested in deceiving us about the rapture and the second coming of Jesus? Think about it a bit and the solution is relatively simple. If we are deceived, then we either do not look forward to it, or we are frozen in fear by having missed it.

The sad thing is we can indeed be deceived on this topic.

For Satan, it really does not matter as long as the fellowship becomes ineffective at reaching anyone else with the gospel. We are to be in calm expectation that Jesus Christ can come for His church at any given second. Knowing that does not produce fear, but confidence to go about living each moment of each day as fully for Him as possible. It might be the last second before the rapture and we must reach just one more.

The call to the church, then and now is the same, don't be duped.

The preventative is knowing truth. "Certain events were going to precede the day of the Lord, and the apostle puts forward the fact that these had not occurred as evidence that they were not on the very verge of its advent." (Green 2002, 306) Don't be duped.



False information and lies are countered with Paul and the team providing the prescribed cure, truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:3b-4

“...For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” (NASB 2020)

So, you have been misled that the eclipse or the increasing persecution around us are signs that we are in the day of the Lord. That simply cannot be the case if you know about those things that must take place before that day can even begin.

As the italics in the NASB indicate, the words “it will not come” have been added...Paul is understood to mean that the Day of the Lord is not present unless first both the apostasy comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed. (Combs 1998, 72-73)

This is what it looks like to really be left behind. The church is gone and what happens is expected. First, apostasy. But let's back up a bit first. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul taught that Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of His promises to come back for us, would do this before wrath falls.

The rapture of the church should be understood not only as pre-tribulational (pre-seventieth week of Daniel) but as pre-day-of-the-Lord. It might be better to use a more biblical expression such as “the pre-day-of-the-Lord rapture.” (Olander 2009, 8)

We have already covered this in great detail. Once the big event, the rapture takes place, and you will know that it has if you have been left behind, then realize this, what is left that calls itself the church, is apostate. “It involves the rejection of God and Christ, and people turning themselves over to the cosmic powers behind this figure. In other words, it is first a rebellion against God and second an apostasy from the true religion.” (Osborne 2018, 172)

Yes, the Bible clearly teaches that a condition of the last days church is one that is moving towards apostasy, just as we see all around us today. But once the church is raptured, then all professing Christians, yes, the ones who are still here, will simply bag it all in favor of what others are already foisting upon the church today.

The menace that has pushed Christianity to the margins of society is not our Fundamentalist fathers, but the Father of all Lies. We stand in a frenzy of spiritual apostasy, facing powers perhaps stronger than any since the first century. Against the Church stand the unseen forces of the Evil One, the god of this world, who, as always, “desires to have us.” (Jones 2010, Kindle Location 636) Once the true church is gone. Satan takes the reins of what is left.

The other event that also must take place is the revealing of the man of lawlessness, aka the Antichrist, aka the Beast. Is the revelation of this person facilitated by the apostate religious organization that is left behind? Possibly.

It is not his existence that is significant; it is his being revealed for what he is, that is, the Lawless One, which is the signal for the commencement of the events of that Day. Undoubtedly he will have been alive for some years before the Day begins, for he will have grown to manhood before instituting his terrible revolt against God. But he will be revealed when he makes a covenant with many of the Jewish people (Dan. 9: 27), and this will signal the start of the Tribulation period. (Ryrie 2001, 110)

As we examine who this is that will be revealed, Paul wants us to be clear of the resume of this person. No, he is not a current ruler anywhere on the planet. Once the Temple was destroyed, then the revelation



of this person became more problematic since one of the identifying marks Paul gives him involves the Temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:3c–4

“...and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the **son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship**, so that **he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**” (NASB 2020)

When this man is revealed, and if you are here to see it, then yes, you were left behind and you are in the day of the Lord, the Tribulation.

This person will go into the rebuilt Temple and declare he is God. How close are we to a rebuilt Temple? Close enough to cause Hamas to call the war one with the Temple Mount as a focus.

We have no idea who this person is now. Is he alive? I believe we are in the last days leading up to the rapture so yes, he most likely is.

From Paul, don't let yourselves be deceived, you know this. Rapture first, then apostasy and the man of lawlessness. Is that all. No.

2 Thessalonians 2:5–7

“Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed.” (NASB 2020)

Paul and the team clearly taught about the day of the Lord when they were there in person. They have the first letter on top of that. In addition, they were taught about the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who is restraining evil and lawlessness right now.

How does He do it? Through us, believers worldwide.

How does He do it? Through Christians, whom He indwells and through whom He works in society to hold back the swelling tide of lawless living. How will He be taken out of the way? When the church leaves the earth in the Rapture, the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way in the sense that His unique lawlessness-restraining ministry through God's people will be removed (cf. Gen. 6:3). The removal of the Restraint at the time of the Rapture must obviously precede the day of the Lord. (Constable 1985, 719)

Once the rapture of the church takes place. The true church is gone, what is left is a mess of conflicting beliefs which has finally done away with those close-minded one-way advocates and now “the gloves are off. The Lie has come in full force, now that it is claiming political power. The eventual prize—planetary religious and political power—is enormous, and One-ists are eager to grasp their pearl of greatest price, a humanly constructed this-worldly utopia. But there is a price. If the pagan Lie is to be more than an expression of pro-choice, individualistic, ego-building spirituality (typical of the old “New Age”), then the movement must give a coherent account of all human phenomena. It must produce a compelling worldview for the twenty-first century planetary community.” (Jones 2010, Kindle Location 528) Enter a brave new world, the world of the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation and serious depopulation of the planet. Suffice it to say, you really do not want to be left behind and be subjected to this.

I am stopping there for now and we will pick up next time.

Where are you on the discussion regarding deception? Are you floating from one thing to another and wondering when the end will come or is your faith firmly planted in Jesus Christ and you live with no fear at all.



Now is your opportunity to make sure that you are not left behind.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

### **ABC’s of Salvation**

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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