

## Right Thinking About the Future (2Thess 2:1-12)

Three points to remember about understanding the future

1. Do Not Be Deceived by False Authorities but Stand Firm in The Word
2. The Antichrist Is Yet to Come but His Influence is Already Active
3. The Future Is Certain but The Future Is Not Here Yet

### ***Do Not Be Deceived by False Authorities but Stand Firm In The Word (2 Thess 2:1-3)***

- False teaching here is strictly defined as falsely claiming the Lord has come and then falsely claiming that these believers should doubt their salvation.
- False teaching is going beyond what the Bible teaches.  
(e.g.: putting dates and times to the second coming (no man knows the hour), saying everyone who doesn't believe my view is not saved)
- 2 Thess 2:15 trust in the true authority on the future, the truth of Scripture that give us confidence about our standing in the Lord and our place in the future.

### ***The Antichrist Is Yet to Come but His Influence is Already Active (2 Thess 2:3-4)***

- The antichrist will not be revealed till rebellion comes first.  
(This "rebellion" is some kind of an uprising against the authorities of that day, a large-scale revolt against the public governments/order of the day.)
- But in 2 Thess 2:7, Paul says the lawlessness, the wickedness, the evil that characterizes being opposed to Christ, the spirit of the antichrist is already present, already active, increasing to the point when it fully explodes in the last days and the Antichrist himself is revealed.
- The spirit of the antichrist lives through everyone who sets themselves up in opposition to God by:
  - o denying the salvation and the divinity and the incarnation of Jesus Christ
  - o opposing the people of God
  - o deceiving themselves, Christians, and the world (1 John 2:18,22; 1 John 4:3, 1 John 2:7)
- Paul emphasizes that the ultimate antichrist is coming, but his spirit and his influence is active today - restrained by the grace of God but still something to be wary about. There will be suffering, persecution, and wickedness in this world in the present.

### ***The Future Is Certain but The Future Is Not Here Yet (2 Thess 2:8,11)***

- The antichrist's destruction and his follower's condemnation is certain in the future
- Our glorification is also certain on that day 2 Thess 2:14

### ***What should we do now?***

While waiting in confidence for the future, we live in the present by:

- Preaching the truth of the Word zealously to the lost
- Living our daily lives different from unbelievers with moral alertness and seriousness, impacting every aspect of our day to day lives
- Alertly standing firm in the truth of God's word and fighting against lawlessness and the spirit of the antichrist, not with the sword but with our words, our convictions and our actions