

SECOND THESSALONIANS

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INTRODUCTION

1. Written on Paul's second journey, shortly after 1st Epistle.
 2. From Corinth to the church; DATE about 51-55 A.D.
 3. It is simply a second prescription for the same case, made after discovering that some certain stubborn symptoms had not yielded to the first treatment.
 4. One author suggest the message in three words:
 - a. "COMFORT" from hope of Christ return. Chap. 1
 - b. "CAUTION" on the time of Christ's return chap. 2.
 - c. "COMMAND" in light of Christ's return Chap. 3
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SECOND COMING

- A. Thought His second coming was imminent and this created an emergency basis for their life which made for an unnatural situation.
 1. No one can live under immense pressure all of the time.
 2. Not even a hero can be a hero all of the time. R & R.
 3. They were expecting Jesus any minute, everyday.
 4. Their lives could not be well ordered as needed for the long haul.
- B. Illustrated by the Adventist crisis in U.S. between 1831 - 1844.
 1. William Miller
 2. Tabernacle meetings drew est. half million.
 3. Finally set Oct. 22, 1844 as date.
 4. Crops left unplanted; stores closed, positions resigned, etc..
 5. In short, chaos reigned among those who believed wholehearted.
 6. Doubtless many a person was left disillusioned, disappointed and cynical.
- C. This is the sort of thing Paul did not want to see at Thessalonica.
 1. Some had already quit working.
 2. Some were busybodies.
- D. Yet did not want to utter one syllable which would lessen the faith of the people in the truth of Jesus' return.
 1. So praises them for their faith and love and patience.
 2. To help develop them as those who could be counted worthy of the kingdom of God.
- E. Thus in this chapter Paul corrects the misapprehension that the Lord was about to come at once. Without professing to set forth all the events which would intervene between the date of this epistle and the Lord's coming, the apostle give three:
 1. Great apostasy.
 2. The removal of that power which hindered the manifestation of the lawless one.
 3. The manifestation of the lawless one and his reign.

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JUDGMENT

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- A. God will recompense affliction to evil men.
 - B. He will recompense rest to those who have suffered.
 - C. In short, what we have in vs. 5-10 is “The Judgment of God”.
 - 1. The moral basis of judgment.
 - 2. The time and circumstances of the judgment.
 - 3. The basis and the nature of punishment.
 - 4. The basis and the nature of reward.
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Importance of Encouragement

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- A. Every human being needs encouragement.
 - B. Every congregation needs encouragement.
 - C. Even to the Corinthians (I cor. 1:4,5).
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Believing A Lie

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- A. God often permits men to have what they want and are determined to have even though He does not want them to have it.
 - B. Example of Israel and their desire for a king.
 - C. Also Ahab and prophet Micaiah (I Kgs 22:1-40).
 - D. Solution in II Thess. 2:15
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DISCIPLINE

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- A. Discipline is vital to the Lord’s church.
 - 1. There is a standard of behavior for children of God. (I Tim. 3:5).
 - 2. Those who do not behave properly are to be corrected by:
 - a. Teaching (Acts 18;26)
 - b. Warning (I Thess. 4:6)
 - c. Rebuking (I Tim. 5:20).
 - d. Withdrawing fellowship (II Thess 3:6).
 - B. DISCIPLINE IN LOVE:
 - 1. II Cor. 2:6,7.....Easier said than done
 - 2. Example of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton.
 - C. WITHDRAWING FROM THE DISORDERLY:
 - 1. One of the most serious responsibilities the church has to assume.
 - 2. Christians must strive to be a respectable and reputable people.
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SUMMARY

- A. Christ is coming again.
 - B. But the coming of Christ may be soon too late; and hence, the church should not operate on an emergency basis.
 - C. Christian must exercise judgment and discretion informed by the Word of God lest he believe a lie and be damned.
 - D. Church must purge itself of persons who steadfastly refuse to follow the teaching of Christ.
 - E. But in all things there must be a spirit of love and desire to save souls.
 - F. Peaceful close: 3;16-18.
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