

Day of the Lord Project—Lesson 6
Pertinent Notes on 2 Thessalonians 2, Part 1

The Difficulty of 2 Thessalonians 2:2

- In our previous studies, we saw that only Paul uses the phrase “day of Christ” and similar phrases, and that, with one exception, these phrases always can be understood to refer to the Catching (1 Thes. 4:17).
- The one exception is 2 Thessalonians 2:2, which instructs saints not to be troubled by the suggestion that the DOC is at hand. This verse poses a difficulty. The saint is to look forward to the blessed hope of Christ’s appearing (2 Thes. 2:13), and the Catching is expressly said to be a source of comfort (1 Thes. 4:17-18). Thus, why would a saint be troubled by the idea that the DOC is at hand?

2 Thessalonians

- The answer to this conundrum lies in understanding the context of 2 Thessalonians 2:2.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:4—the Thessalonians have been enduring tribulation.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-6—God recompenses tribulation to those that persecute the body of Christ.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:7—the Thessalonians will have rest when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8—the Lord takes vengeance on those that obey not the gospel.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9—God’s enemies shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the “PRESENCE” of the Lord.
 - Recall from Zephaniah 1:7 that the DOTL = the presence of the Lord God.
- What 2 Thessalonians 1 is about is God taking vengeance on the adversaries of the body of Christ while the body of Christ is at rest.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1—Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him,
 - Paul beseeches the Thessalonians on the basis of the Catching
- 2 Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
 - Basic sentence structure requires that the “day of Christ” in 2:2 not be the same thing referred to in 2:1.
 - What 2:1-2 is saying is we beseech you on the basis of THIS don’t be troubled about THAT.

- THIS and THAT must be different for the sentence to make any sense.
- The sense of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 is that since the Thessalonians will be part of the Catching (2:1), they do not need to worry about the wrath of the day of Christ, i.e., the Second Coming (2:2).
- Although when Paul uses the term “day of Christ” elsewhere it may refer to the Catching, it is clear that 2 Thessalonians 2:2 is not referring to the Catching when it uses the term “day of Christ.”
- 2:2 In this verse, the DOC refers to the pouring out of wrath at the Second Coming.
 - The term “day of Christ” means different things in different places just as the term DOTL covers over 1000 years and diverse events.
 - Just as the Cross, the first coming, purchased salvation for both prophetic and mystery saints, the Second Coming executes wrath upon both the persecutors of the prophetic saints and the persecutors of the mystery saints.
 - The theme of 2 Thessalonians is not as much about the BOC’s deliverance from wrath as it is about the execution of wrath upon those who persecuted the BOC.
 - Revelation 6:9-10 The Second Coming is where God takes vengeance on those who during the tribulation have persecuted the saints. God’s righteousness requires him to execute this judgment.
 - The DOC is not simply the Catching up, the redemption of the body, and the Judgment Seat of Christ. It also settles the score with the adversaries of the BOC. The BOC, and the Thessalonians in particular, have suffered from persecutors that God must judge.
- 2:2 “day of Christ”
 - Scofield says that “day of Christ” is a mistranslation, and that it should instead read “the day of the Lord.”
 - The underlying word in the Textus Receptus is Christos, which is translated as Christ in 568 other places and never translated as anything else.
 - “The day of Christ” is the correct translation.
 - For the position that we are teaching, it would be no problem if the verse read “the day of the Lord,” but it is wrong to change the word of God even if you think you are making it clearer. Whenever one changes the word of God to make it clearer, one is actually losing valuable insight.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3—Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
 - There is a great deal of deception regarding the timing of the day of Christ / DOTL.

- There are certain events that precede the day of Christ, including the falling away and the revelation of the man of sin
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3—the falling away is exactly what is described in Romans 11.
 - Romans 11:11-12—Israel falls, i.e., diminishes, in the book of Acts.
 - Romans 11:13—“I speak to you Gentiles.” Romans 11 addresses Gentiles as a group, not the body of Christ.
 - Romans 11:20—Israel was broken off because of unbelief.
 - Romans 11:20-22—warns Gentiles to continue to stand by faith or else they face being cut off. This is not God dealing harshly with the body of Christ but God cutting off the direct Gentile access to Christ that exists during the dispensation of grace.
 - Romans 11:25—the dispensation of grace concludes when the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.
 - In other words, the dispensation of grace ends when Gentiles refuse to continue in God’s goodness, i.e., they fall away. Since at that point the fullness of Gentiles has come in, it is appropriate for God to conclude the dispensation of grace.