

as a Master paying wages, but as a Father dealing affectionately with His children. ¹

1. The Pulpit Commentary, Volume XXI, p. 49.

THE RESTRAINER OF THE ANTICHRIST (II Thessalonians 2:6-8)

The Rapture of the Church will take place first, and then the Antichrist will be revealed, but II Thessalonians 2:6,7 tells us there is a “He” (which the Thessalonians knew about) that hindered the mystery of iniquity or the spirit of lawlessness. This “He” is the Holy Spirit who is restraining the Antichrist from being revealed until He, The Holy Spirit takes the Church out of the way: which we call the “Rapture” of the Church. The Holy Spirit will not be taken away, as some believe (John 16:7,8), because there will be salvations during the Great Tribulation period, of which cannot be, if the Holy Spirit is not here to draw them.

1. What does II Thessalonians 2:8 say the Lord will do to the Antichrist? _____

THEY WILL BELIEVE A LIE AND BE DAMNED (II Thessalonians 2:11,12)

The Antichrist will deceive many into unrighteousness who will reject the truth. They will take the mark of the beast which, in turn, gives God no other choice but to . . .

send them strong delusion (error): That is, because of

the hardness of their hearts, (cf. Romans 1:18-22; Mark 7:6) He permits the transmission of strong delusion; strong error. God uses the devil for His own purposes (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned : When these take the 'mark of the beast' (Revelation 13:16) they will have no desire for God (I Timothy 4:1); no conviction of sin; their conscience will be seared (to render unsensitive) with a hot iron (I Timothy 4:2). They will even betray those they once loved, and will rejoice at their death. Love will instantly turn to hate. They will blame God for the terrible disasters coming upon them, but the fault lies with their rebellion against God and that dangerous choice they make when they take the beast's mark. One of their greatest deceptions is, that they will still believe Satan will win in the end.

1. II Thessalonians 2:12 tells us that those who believed not the truth, had _____ .

Lawlessness and anything related to Satan and his works, all unrighteousness, will be the pleasure of these unbelievers.

2. Name some of the lawlessness and unrighteous activity you think will be rampant during the Great Tribulation period. _____

THE DAY OF THE LORD IN RELATION TO BELIEVERS (II Thessalonians 2:13-17)

In conclusion to his prophetic exhortation in this Chapter, Paul urges the believers to focus on God's love for them, and wait patiently for the return of Christ: walking in holiness, just as though His return might be at any moment; yet continue to work for His kingdom.

A Benediction:

A true benediction is more than an expression of good wishes. It is a prayer by someone who has especial weight in intercession, although it is expressed to the person for whom it is offered. The benediction of so great and good a man as St. Paul is of great value, because the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The sources of the blessings of a benediction are not human or earthly at all. Here they are declared. 1. *The personal influence of Jesus Christ*. This is strikingly expressed by the reference to "our Lord Jesus Christ *Himself*." His brotherhood and His love lead Him to bless us. His Divinity, His goodness, and His sacrifice give Him authority in heaven. In His own right He blesses. And He does not delegate the blessing. He confers it Himself. 2. *The fatherhood of God*. Because God is "our Father" we may expect blessings from Him. Fears and doubts arise from partial views of God, and views which leave out of account His great fatherly nature. He does not bless