

The Man who Claims to be God

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Thessalonians 2:1-12.

B. There is a debate about when the Lord will return in relationship to the Tribulation.

II. Paul clearly states what he is going to talk about, the coming of the Lord and our meeting Him.

A. Coming really means the presence of the Lord. If one reads this as the presence of the Lord including His coming and work on the earth during this time, he will see Paul describing a pre-Tribulation experience.

B. The believers were not to be excited because they saw the Day of the Lord as coming.

1. The Day of the Lord was a time of great distress as the Old Testament prophesied.
(Revelation 8-18)

2. The believers were alarmed because they thought they had arrived at this day and had missed the coming of the Lord.

3. There is enough self-doubt in all of us to make us feel like we might not make heaven.

4. Paul may not have assured them with this regard because he knew that some among them had not been born again.

5. The Day of the Lord would not occur until the man of lawlessness would be revealed.
(Matthew 24)

a. The man of lawlessness is the Antichrist.

b. He is the hopeless one.

c. The Holy Spirit in the Christian is the restraint that keeps the Antichrist from arising.

6. The mystery of lawlessness—the strange secret of universal evil—is already at work in the world.

7. Believers will be changed instantly at the Rapture, and then the lawless one will be revealed.

8. When Jesus returns, He will defeat the Antichrist with a word from His lips.
(Revelation 19:20)

III. Methods by which evil will do its work.

- A. Satan is at work behind the scenes.
- B. Evil gains a following with counterfeit miracles.
- C. Evil employs various forms of deception.
- D. It appeals to any who refuse to love the truth.
- E. It opens a door for the ultimate lie that man can be god in his own little world.

IV. Each person must bow to Jesus' Lordship.

Application questions:

1. What is the Day of the Lord? Why were the Thessalonians concerned?

2. How will the Day of the Lord be marked? Why is it important for believers to recognize this now?

3. Which method of evil do you find to be most potent on the church today? How can this be adequately addressed?
