



Learn to Discern

By Jeff Bedwell on March 26, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 2 Thessalonians 2

We live in a day and age where wild rumors, "fake news," and conspiracy theories seem to abound. Due to the technology of our day, they can be spread quickly and upset many in a very short period of time. The technology has changed, but human nature has not.

Paul wrote this letter to counteract some misinformation that had circulated throughout the Thessalonian church regarding Christ's coming. Paul desired to set the record straight by explaining the events which must occur before the Lord's return. He wrote of the Antichrist's power and works within the world, the delusion he will create among those who refuse God, and the future coming of Jesus Christ to destroy Satan and all that belongs to him. Paul assured the Thessalonians that they had not been excluded from this great event. It was still to occur in the future (vv. 1-12).

Paul then encouraged the Thessalonians by reminding them of the truth of who they were in Christ Jesus. They had believed the truth, were loved by God, and were called to share in his glory. Paul challenged them to stand firm in the truth of what he taught them and not to be shaken by false rumors (vv. 13-15). This chapter ends with Paul's desire and prayer for these believers to look to God for encouragement and strength and that their words and their actions might be consistent with their faith and trust in Christ Jesus (vv. 16-17). They could stand firm in the truth that God was in control!

Technology has changed, but our enemy has not. Deception remains a favorite tool of Satan inside and outside the church. We must be anchored to God's revealed Word, preserved for us in the pages of scripture. We must "test" every idea and even so called "prophecies" against the standard of God's Word. In an earlier letter to these same believers, Paul wrote, "but test everything; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, ESV). John warned, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1, ESV).

Let us recommit ourselves to living lives of distinction in a world full of hype, hysteria and falsehoods being spread as truth. Let us anchor our lives in our relationship with Christ Jesus. Let us stand firm in the truth of God's Word. As Paul wrote to the Romans, "Do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2, ESV).

PRAYER: "Father, we live in a world of so much 'noise' and competing claims of truth. Help us immerse ourselves in the truth of Your Word. Help us discern truth from error. Help our words and our actions to be consistent with Your Absolute Truth."

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 2 Thessalonians 3

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