

Monday, 11 December 2017 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (1)

*The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, **because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.** Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

The story of man—we have refused to love (agape—love which serves) the Truth, i.e. obey the Word of God. The LORD, God the Almighty, said that if you disobey Me, you will surely die (Gen 2:17) Satan said that if you disobey Him, you will not surely die (Gen 3:4-5). We said, "We want to be like gods, we want what we want, and we want it now." We swapped life in the presence of the Almighty for a bite of forbidden fruit and have been making the same stupid choice ever since.

Tuesday, 12 December 2017 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (2)

*The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

You want to be stupid and self-willed, go right ahead, have a momentary taste, a fleeting nibble of the frosting that coats a bitter eternity, banished from the presence of the good and lovely.

Wednesday, 13 December 2017 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SAVED! Not by my efforts but through the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit. And access to that power is through

belief/trust/commitment/obedience/faith in the truth.

Thursday, 14 December 2017 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Paul is addressing our relationship with those who deliberately flaunt the Word of God. He is not recommending shunning for then we could not effectively warn him as a brother. We are to do everything in our power, utilizing the power of prayer and the evidence of a life lived in obedience, to lead our brother into a life of conformity to the Scriptures.

Friday, 15 December 2017 1 Timothy 1:8-11

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

A nation is defined as those regions where the laws of that nation are in force. For example, the nation of the United States of America not only includes Chester, Vermont; it also includes the American embassy in Cuba.

The Law of God defines life in the Kingdom of God. It defines a believer's relationship with the LORD, God, the Almighty and with the world in which we live. Adherence to the Law does not gain access to the Kingdom of God, but it does demonstrate to non-members that my loyalty is to God's Kingdom.

Saturday, 16 December 2017 1 Timothy 1:8, 11

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ... in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

I have been entrusted with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God. And so has every other believer in the

sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are commanded in Matthew 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

Let us go, therefore, boldly to make disciples of all nations, *having received power when the Holy Spirit came upon us, and are His witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” Acts 1:8.
(paraphrased)

Lord's Day, 17 December 2017 Psalm 119:66

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

I have several issues this morning that need good judgment and knowledge. Guide me according to Your word.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



December 11-17, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Corinthians 16:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

This is a necessary and sufficient statement. There is nothing that I can add to these words from Paul to make it more appropriate for each of us to pray for our congregations. Let us each use this week as we meditate upon the richness of our Lord and how it is displayed through our community.

Creational Theology hint for the week—Our solar system exhibits a large array of 'just right' factors that must be precisely so for life to exist on earth. The probability that all 68 factors would be exactly right is estimated at 1×10^{-99} (0. followed by 99 zeros ending in 1). Consider when you step outside that the heavens declare the glory of God. Statistics quoted from "The Incredible Design of the Earth and Our Solar System by [Rich Deem](#)."

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