

Standing Firm in the Truth

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

April 15, 2012

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Without truth we are vulnerable to deception.
- B. That power of deception has and is and will be used to mislead many away from following Jesus because they did not really stand in the truth.
- C. Even a strong church like that at Thessalonica was unsettled and alarmed by lies spread among them that Jesus had already come and they missed it.
- D. Other deceptions more powerful than this will be coming and we need to be ready.
- E. Paul told them and all of us not to be deceived but to stand firm in the truth.

***WE CAN STAY STRONG AND LIVE
READY FOR THE COMING DECEPTION
WHEN WE STAND FIRM IN THE TRUTH.***

II. HOW WILL THE TRUTH HELP US?

- A. Standing firm in the truth will protect us from the deception of Satan's man.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-8)

 1. He is called the man of lawlessness, the man of sin, the son of perdition, but his most famous title is antichrist.
 - a. He is a man so totally controlled by Satan as to be the embodiment of Satan himself.
 - b. He is a master deceiver who will rise to power in the midst of worldwide turmoil.

2. He will lead a rebellion.
 - a. Rebellion—apostasy, falling away.
 - b. Those who fall away are people who profess to be Christians, but who do not stand in the truth and will be led to rebel against God, follow the antichrist and ultimately be destroyed.
 - c. “The secret power of lawlessness is already at work”
(2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 John 2:18-27; John 8:31-32)
3. Right now the fullness of the rebellion is being held back, but in the future the man of lawlessness will be revealed to deceive the world.
4. But those who stand firm in the truth will not be deceived.
(1 John 2:18-20; John 17:13-17)

B. Standing firm in the truth will protect us from the deception of Satan's lie. *(2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)*

1. The lie has never changed. It is the same lie Satan told Adam and Eve. “You can be as God.”
2. When people know God, but choose to believe Satan's lie they are condemned.
(2 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Romans 1:21-32)
3. In fact rampant belief in the lie marked by increased sin and wickedness is evidence that God's verdict has already been rendered and His judgment has begun. People who stand firm in the truth will not be deceived by Satan's lie.
(2 Thessalonians 2:13-15)

III. CONCLUSION

Matthew 24:24; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Peter 2:1-3;
2 Timothy 3:10-4:8; Jude 24-25.