

WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY
The I Thessalonians Series #11
April 15th, 2018

TEXT: I Thessalonians 1:9-10; II Thessalonians 2:1-12

CONSIDER THIS: The Christians in Thessalonica were genuine, they were deeply committed to Christ, their lives had been radically changed by their faith and the process of life transformation was continuing. This process of change which makes a person grow to become more like Christ is called **sanctification** and it is one of the two major themes of I Thessalonians. It is also directly connected to the other major theme of I Thessalonians, the future return of Jesus Christ. Today we will continue to investigate the events connected with **the coming wrath** mentioned by Paul in I Thessalonians 1:10. Knowing that it is Jesus Christ Himself Who rescues us from the coming wrath, and knowing that His return can happen at any time, is wonderful motivation to be **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**.

NOTE: In II Thessalonians 2:1-5, written shortly after I Thessalonians, Paul admonishes his friends to remember what he had taught them about the end times and the rise of the Anti-Christ during “the coming wrath” (the 7 year tribulation) referred to in I Thessalonians 1:10. Paul used strong language in response to false teaching that had come into the church and caused upheaval. This teaching was said to have come from another letter from Paul and by someone speaking a false prophecy. Paul was disappointed that his friends had so easily been fooled by this counterfeit letter after all that he had taught them. The “when I was with you” of II Thessalonians 2:5 recalls the brief time Paul had been physically present in Thessalonica when the church was originally founded (described in Acts 17:1-10). During his time with them it is highly probable that Paul had taught extensively from Daniel 7-12 and that Paul also shared with the Thessalonians the teachings of Jesus Christ that cover some of the same ground found in Matthew 24:1-44.

THE COMING WRATH

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

God removes the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit

See Romans 1:18-32

God's wrath (verse 18) is revealed by His giving people over to their sin in 1:24, 26, 28 (NOTE: We see evidence of Romans 1:32 and I Peter 4:3-5 around us every day).

Similar to hardening of Pharaoh's heart in Exodus 7:2-5

James 1:13-15 ... God never tempts people to sin, but He will remove His restraining hand.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12 ... They refused to love the truth, so God gave them what they wanted.

The depth of man's rebellion in Revelation 9:20-21 explains why they honor "The Man of Lawlessness".

The Anti-Christ makes his move, II Thessalonians 2:3-4, and the rebellious world (verse 3) embraces his defiant declaration (verse 4)

Over 500 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Daniel saw the rise of the Anti-Christ (Daniel 7:23-25).

Foreshadowed by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B.C., who desecrated the Jerusalem temple = "The abomination that causes desolation" (Daniel 11:29-32).

Jesus Christ, in the final days before His death, spoke of the future abomination of desolation carried out by the Anti-Christ (Matthew 24:1-3, 15-19). At the midpoint of the seven year tribulation the Anti-Christ breaks the covenant he had made with Israel (Daniel 9:24-27).

This is what Paul taught the Thessalonians in II Thessalonians 2:3-4.

THE COMING WRATH

(I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9-11, Revelation 3:10)

Christian, you are not destined for wrath. The best response to the wonderful grace and mercy of our Lord and the assurance that someday we will see Him is to be **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY.**