

TOUGH TIMES, TOUGHER FAITH
II Thessalonians Series #5
October 5th, 2025

TEXT: II Thessalonians 2:1-12

CONSIDER THIS: Christian, the time of the man of lawlessness (the Antichrist) draws ever nearer. Don't be afraid! God has not appointed you for this time. But since we know the condition of lawlessness is on the rise, let's respond with a faith that is tougher than the toughest of times.

I. A TOUGH FAITH (II Thessalonians 1:3-4)

KEY: Having a faith that is tougher than the toughest of times or the most difficult circumstances is not something reserved only for "super spiritual" Christians, it is something God wants for all of His people. A tough faith doesn't just happen, it is something we grow into... it is the journey God calls us to and helps us with, and having a tough faith requires that we desire to attain it.

A tough faith:

1. Chooses to view everything through the lens of God's Word 
2. Believes God is in absolute control
3. Is joyful no matter the circumstances (joy is not an emotion but it influences our emotions)
4. Finds satisfaction in trusting in the goodness of God's character
5. Is not tossed to and fro by the waves and false doctrine (Ephesians 4:13-14)
6. Wants to share the gospel with others

The Thessalonians had a tough faith in the midst of terrible persecution, but what was threatening to steal their peace and confidence was false teaching about the day of the Lord.
See II Thessalonians 2:1-2

II. THE COST OF BEING DECEIVED (2:2)

NOTE: II Thessalonians 2:1-2 explains what being deceived costs Christians, 2:9-12 explains what being deceived costs non-Christians.

A) The Christian who is deceived by false teaching will be "shaken in mind or alarmed" (v.2). He forfeits all the blessings that come with having a tough faith.

B) If the "day of the Lord" had already had come

1. Paul was wrong about the end times, or...
2. Paul had changed his beliefs, or...
3. The Thessalonians lacked comprehension skills about core biblical truths, or...
4. God had changed His mind or plans

Anyone of these 4 things was enough to cause anxiety and steal joy

III. THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (2:3-4)

KEY: The proof that the day of the Lord had not arrived was the absence of the Antichrist.

- A) Satan shows his hatred for God by seeking to replace God. In Genesis 3:1-5 his appeal to Eve was to reject God as Lawmaker and instead make her own laws. This is still happening today (II Thessalonians 2:7; I John 3:4). One of the appeals the Man of Lawlessness will have to the world is his moral relativism. People who don't love God hate His moral code [a/nomia; auto/nomos]
- B) Lawlessness contaminates whoever accepts it (Judges 21:25)
- C) Satan shows his hatred for God by trying to replace Christ (Matthew 24:3-8, 23-24). The Antichrist will claim to be Christ, the Son of God (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

Compare Matthew 24:25 with II Thessalonians 2:5. The plans of God are not falling apart, they are falling into place. He is in complete control!

IV. A TOUGH FAITH REJECTS LAWLESSNESS

KEY: Paul had the heart of a pastor. He wasn't just giving information about the coming "man of lawlessness/Antichrist", he was teaching the Christians of Thessalonica what it should mean in their daily lives.

- A) Reject **lawlessness** (the spirit of the end times) and embrace God's commands, see I Thessalonians 1:9, 4:3, 7; 5:22-24 and II Thessalonians 1:3; 3:4-5; 13-15.
- B) A tough faith is an obedient faith, and this obedience is a joyful response from a forgiven sinner toward a forgiving God.
 - 1. Husbands, love your wives. Wives, submit to your husbands (Ephesians 5:25, 22)
 - 2. Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:31-32)
 - 3. Serve one another (I Peter 4:10)
 - 4. Surrender to the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - 5. Speak truthfully (Ephesians 4:25)
 - 6. Love one another (I John 3:23)

IF YOU WANT FAITH THAT IS TOUGHER THAN THE TOUGHEST OF TIMES, CHOOSE
TO LIVE A LIFE OF JOYFUL OBEDIENCE TO GOD.