

“Dealing With Doctrine!”
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

Introduction:

1. The Church In The City Of Thessalonica Was A Struggling Church!
 - Due To The Opposition & Persecution They Were Facing!
 - But, After Writing One Letter To Them To Encourage Them To Continue On Even Through Their Suffering, He Writes This Second Letter:
 - To Commend / Praise Them For Their Continued Growth!
 - To Give Thanks To God For Their Continued Growth!
 - To Pray To God For Their Continuing Growth!
2. Now, In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul Gets To The Heart Of The Matter!
 - Their Greatest Problem Was Not Their Suffering!
 - Their Greatest Problem Was Their Misunderstanding & Misapplication Of The Truth!
 - Their Was Something Missing!
 - IE: Like Fixing Up A Mower, But Not Filling Up The Oil! Not A Minor Problem! Major!
 - To Encourage Them To Continue Believing In & Serving The Lord While Suffering, He Pointed Them To The Hope Of The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ!
 - Every Chapter In 1 Thessalonians!
 - 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13—18; 5:9—10!
 - They Were Excited!
 - Many Of Them Thought That The Final Stage Of History Was Just Moments Away Or That It Had Already Come!
 - Many Became Lazy!
 - So Paul Writes To Help Them In:

1. *Dealing With The Doctrine Of The Second Coming!*

- A Warning About The Truth!
 - 2:1 - “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him!”
 - “Beseech” - To Implore / Even To Beg!
 - The Matter Was Very Urgent!
 - The Issue Demanded Their Utmost Attention & Action!
 - To Paul, Biblical Teaching / Doctrine Was A Very Serious Matter — A Matter That Demanded That They Get It Right!
 - Doctrine Is Very Important & Relevant!
 - Even In What Some Christians Now Consider To Be “Secondary Matters” - Matters Of Prophecy & Eschatology!
 - The 2 Doctrines He Was Dealing With Were:
 - The Coming Of Christ!
 - The Call Of Christ! (For His People)
 - Important & Relevant! Will Impact Each Of You!
- A Warning Over The Truth!
 - 2:2 - “That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand!”
 - Paul Was Greatly Concerned About How These Doctrines Had Impacted Them!
 - Instead Of Bringing Hope & Joy & Comfort, It Brought Concern & Worry!
 - They Were “Shaken” In Mind!
 - They Were “Troubled” In Heart!
 - Instead Creating Confidence & Conviction, It Created Confusion!
 - They Didn’t Know Who To Believe!

- Their Own “Spirit” — Thoughts / Opinions!
- Another’s “Word” Or Teaching!
- Even Another “Letter” That Seemed To Be From Paul!
- Instead The Truth Becoming Clear, It Became Concealed!
- They Didn’t Know What To Believe!
- Has “The Day Of Christ” Already Come?
- A Wariness Of The Truth!
 - Paul Now Sets Things In Order!
 - 2:3-4 - “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; / Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God!”
 - The Concern / Confusion / Concealment Of The Truth Was The Result Of Deception!
 - They Had Been Deceived!
 - The Truth Is: The “Day Of Christ”:
 - Had Not Come!
 - Will Not Come! Until Some Events Take Place!
 - This “Day Of Christ” Is The Time When Jesus Comes As Found In 1:7-10. This Is Not What Must Happen Before A Rapture Of His Church.
 - There Will Be A Great Apostasy!
 - “A Falling Away!”
 - The “Church” In That Day Will Deny & Reject Jesus Christ & Follow Another!
 - Do We See This Today? No! There May Be A “Falling Away” Today In Practice, But Not Necessarily In Profession — Most Still Claim The Name Of Jesus!
 - There Will Be A Great Antichrist!
 - “Man Of Sin” / “Son Of Perdition”
 - A Real Man Who Will Oppose & Exalt Himself:
 - Above All Gods!
 - As God!
 - He Will Place Himself In Christ’s Rightful Position Within The Church! An Imposter!
- A Witness Of The Truth!
 - 2:5 - “Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?”
 - Paul Had Already Taught Them About These Things!
 - They Needed To Remember What He Had Already Said! The Truth Was Nothing New Or Novel!

* Paul Was Teaching Them How To Deal With The Specific Doctrines Of The Coming Of Christ & The Call Of Christ In The Last Day! There Is Much To Learn About These Doctrines, As We Will See In The Coming Weeks! But He Also Shows To Us How To, In General:

2. ***Dealing With The Doctrines Of The Bible!***

- You Must Be Submissive To The Truth! Truth Does Matter — To You!
 - 2:1 - “We Beseech You, Brethren!”
 - There Are Many More Doctrines & Truths To Discover & Learn & Apply From The Word Of God!
 - They Are All As Important & Relevant!
 - As The Two Paul Gives Here!
 - Questions About Matters Of Doctrine:
 - “What Does This Matter?”
 - “What Does This Have To Do With Me?”
 - If A Doctrine Is In The Bible, It Matters! And It Matters To You! You Can’t Pick & Choose Which Ones Matter!
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: / That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works!”

- You Must Be Stable In The Truth!
 - 2:2!
 - Ephesians 4:14 - "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive!"
 - Don't Let Your Mind Be Altered From The Truth!
 - "Shaken!"
 - Don't Let Your Heart Be Alarmed By The Truth!
 - "Troubled!"
 - Even When You Find "Some Things Hard To Be Understood!" (2 Peter 3:16)
- You Must Be Sure Of The Truth!
 - It's Not About Your Feelings!
 - It's Not About Others' Impressive Facts!
 - Colossians 2:4, 8 - "And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. / Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ!"
 - It's Not About Anyone's Fraud!
 - No "Law Of Abrogation" Here!
 - It's About The Sole Source Of Truth — The Word Of God! "What Does The Bible Say?" The Whole Bible!
- You Must Be Sensitive To The Truth!
 - 2:3 - "Let no man deceive you by any means!"
 - Deception Is Very Subtle!
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3 - "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ!"
 - Deceit Can Come "By Any Means!"
 - Different Men! Rough / Smooth!
 - Different Methods! Bold / Quiet!
 - Always Trying Something Else / New / Novel! Vs. "The Simplicity That Is In Christ!"
 - Deceit Can Be Confronted By "Remembering!"
 - 2:5!
 - What Has Been Written / Taught From The Bible!
 - Hebrews 2:1 - "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip!"

Conclusion:

1. How Are You Dealing With Doctrine?
 - Is It Something You Try To Avoid?
 - Everything In Scripture Is Important & Relevant To You, Personally!
 - Is It Something You Try To Alter?
 - Because There Is Something You Don't Like Or Don't Fully Understand?
 - Or, Is It Something You Allow The Lord To Teach You & Challenge You Through?
2. This Is How You Deal With Doctrine!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com