

Have We Been Deceived!

2Thessalonians 2:1-3, 5

Matthew 24:3-14

Colossians 2:1-8

Have We Been Deceived? False Gospels of the 21st Century

- ✘ “Only Believe without Repentance” (Mark 1:14-15; Matt 3:7; Lk 24:46-47; 13:1-5)
- ✘ “Only Believe without Obedience” (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:1-3; James 1:22)
- ✘ “Saviour But Not Lord” (Romans 10:9-10)
- ✘ “Only Believe and Do Nothing and Still Be Saved” (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; Luke 11:28; Ephesians 4:7, 16; 1 John 2:17)
 - ✘ “Born-Again and Do as You Please”
 - ✘ “Born-Again and Set Your Own Priorities”
 - ✘ “Born-Again and Set Your Own Standard”
- ✘ “Only Believe without Loving God and Christ” (John 14:15; 15:10, 13-15; 1 John 5:3; 1 Corinthians 16:22)
- ✘ “Only Believe and Ignore God’s Commandments” (Matthew 12:50; 1 John 5:1-3)
- ✘ “Only Believe Without Works” (James 2:14-26)
- ✘ “Born-Again with No Transformation” (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:2; Titus 3:5)
- ✘ “Born-Again with No Abiding in God’s Word” (John 8:31-32; 15:1-11)
- ✘ “Born-Again without Following (Obeying) Christ’s Teachings” (John 10:27-28)
- ✘ “Born-Again and Completely Saved” (Romans 13:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- ✘ “Born-Again and Complacency” (Zephaniah 1:12)
- ✘ “Born-Again and Free to Live Life as I Please” (Matt 4:4; Luke 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:1-3)
- ✘ “Born-Again with Career and Family More Important than Church” (Luke 14:26-33; Matthew 10:37-39; Ephesians 5:25)
- ✘ “Born-Again with No Growth” (Ephesians 4:11-16; 2:21; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Peter 2:2; 3:18; Philippians 3:12-15; Hebrews 6:1)
- ✘ “Born-Again without the Pursuit of Holiness” (Heb 12:14; 2 Cor 7:1)
- ✘ “Born-Again without Discipleship” (Luke 14:26-33; Luke 6:40; John 13:35; 15:1-8; John 8:31)



7 March 2021

- ✘ “Only Believe and Christ Will Forgive You for Ignoring Him” (Luke 6:46)
- ✘ “Only Believe with No Concern of Being Deceived” (Matthew 7:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 John 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:12;)
- ★ Anyone who preaches or trusts anything other than the ONE TRUE GOSPEL as communicated to the Church through the Apostle Paul is ACCURSED. (Galatians 1:6-9)
- ★ **TRUTH:** We are NOT saved by any works we do (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; 2 Timothy 1:9) **BUT WORKS** (obedience to God’s commands) **ARE THE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE TRULY BORN-AGAIN.** (James 1:22; 2:14-26; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14).

Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:1)

- **FIRST:** The purpose of prophecy in Scripture is to lead us to PURITY!!
Prophecy is ONE of the strongest proofs that the Bible is what it says it is - THE VERY WORD of GOD.
- **IF SCRIPTURE IS THE WORD OF GOD THEN IT MUST BE OBEYED!**
- **TO DISOBEY WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY IS TO DISOBEY GOD!**
- **TO IGNORE THE SCRIPTURES IS TO IGNORE GOD!**
- There were over 300 prophecies concerning Christ’s FIRST coming and ALL of them were FULFILLED! What should this tell us about the prophecies of His SECOND coming!
 - ★ The probability of ONLY 8 of these prophecies being fulfilled by ONE man is:

1x10¹⁷

- Paul taught the second coming of Christ to NEW CONVERTS – see v. 5.
 - ★ Paul taught the Word of God, but the Thessalonians listened to men.
MEDITATE!!!! BE WARNED!!!!
- Churches have a tendency to falling into two traps concerning second coming prophecies:
 - ① They go OVERBOARD, preach nothing but prophecy and begin to speculate on dates.
OR
 - ② They IGNORE prophecy all together.
- The Church is to preach and teach the second coming of Christ.
- The date of Christ’s second coming is God’s business. Preaching, teaching and DOING the WHOLE Word of God is our business.
- We are to EXPECT His Second coming as if it were going to be TODAY! See Luke 12:40; Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13.
- We are COMMANDED to watch, eagerly wait for, and groan for His Second Coming. (Romans 8:23-25; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14)

- Christ is coming ONLY for those who are “eagerly awaiting” Him. (Hebrews 9:28)
- The FACT is that TODAY we are CLOSER to the SECOND ADVENT of Jesus Christ than we have ever been. (Romans 13:11)

ARE YOU READY?

Shaken!!! (2 Thessalonians 2:2)

- Persecution and tribulation DID NOT shaken these young Christians.
- They understood that PERSECUTION was a PART of BEING a Christian. (John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22)
- What shook them was a FALSE teaching that the “DAY of the LORD” had already come!! This was ROBBING them of their PEACE they had in the midst of their PERSECUTION.
- God has given HIS PEOPLE His Word for their ENCOURAGEMENT and STRENGTHENING. (Romans 15:4)
- What shook them was that they were being told that they had MISSED the Second Coming of their Lord!! Something (One) they were eagerly awaiting. (1 Thessalonians 1:10)
 - ★ Paul taught them and they genuinely believed him! (2 Thessalonians 2:5)
- The “Day of the LORD” is Scripture:
 - See Isaiah 13:6-9; Joel 1:15; 2:1-2; Amos 5:16-18; Zephaniah 1:14-15; Matthew 24:21
 - It is a PERIOD of Time when the LORD God ALMIGHTY will pour out HIS WRATH on the world.
 - THIS Day is on GOD’s CALENDAR and will happen SOON. (See Revelation 1:1.
- Many will SCOFF (laugh at) at teaching of Christ's second coming. (See 2 Peter 3:3-4)
- BUT God will **laugh** at them!! (Psalm 37:13; 2:4; Proverbs 1:26)
- The CAUSE of this confusion came from what appears to be a COUNTERFEIT letter that the young church had received.

Do NOT Be Deceived! (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

- This is the GREATEST WARNING in the NEW TESTAMENT.
- **MANY**, not a few, have been, are being, will be deceived! (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24; 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- Jesus warned us: Matthew 7:15; 24:4, 5, 11, 24, 25
- Paul warned the Corinthians of false teachers: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- Paul warned the Ephesians: Acts 20:29-32.
- Paul warned the Colossians: Colossians 2:4, 8
- Paul rebuked the Galatians: Galatians 1:6-10; 3:1
- Paul warned young Timothy: 2 Timothy 3:13

- Paul warned young Titus: Titus 1:10
- Peter warned the scattered ones (elect): 2 Peter 3:17; 2:1-3
- John warned us to TEST all spirits because many antichrists had gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

FIRST . . . (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

- There must be a great FALLING away from the faith – sound teachings.
 - See 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Matt 13:20-22
 - People will LIKE fables (myths) more than they will want the TRUTH.
 - Remember MANY people will be DECEIVED! (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11)
 - THIS SOUNDS LIKE TODAY!

GOD Means What He Says - Do We Believe Him?

- Those who have been deceived will say, “I have nothing to be concerned with because I have not be deceived.” **MEDITATE.**
- The only way NOT to be DECEIVED is to be in the WORD a lot! We are to STUDY – see 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Thess 5:21; Acts 17:11.
- It is not a question of being a RELIGIOUS FANATIC! Religious fanatics normally do not KNOW the Word (or their own word!) – they have listened to others!
- If YOU are not in the Word and prayerfully studying it YOU WILL BE DECEIVED and NOT even know it!!! (John 8:31-32)
- You MUST be in the MEAT of the Word and USING (obeying) the Word in order to tell the difference between what is RIGHT and what is WRONG. (Hebrews 5:13-14)
- Paul warned the Thessalonians in his first letter to TEST EVERYTHING (5:21) – this they did not do.
- **WARNING:** Those who believe a LIE and PRACTICE a LIE will not be allowed into heaven. (Revelation 22:15; 21:8, 27)

**DO NOT BE DECEIVED!
TEST EVERYTHING!
IT IS YOUR SOUL!**