2Thess #97

Knowing the truth from the counterfeit

Open back up in 2Thessalonians chapter two RF.

The historic facts are that the Bels in Thessalonica had fallen for the false teaching. Not all but many were now confused about the series of events within the end times.

Their Eschatology was skewed and yet they had been taught accurately.

2Thes 2:8 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

Never assume you can not be fooled or even subtly led astray from truth.

[2Th 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/6/s_1118006) And you know what restrains *him* now, so that he will be revealed in his time.

[2Th 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/7/s_1118007) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now now restrains *will do so* until He is removed.

This removal is a reference to the end of the CA dispensation at the Rapture.

Satan’s army and his system has been hard at work since the fall in the garden.

The beast system has always been in the works.

Yet there has always been a restraining ministry holding back the full authority of evil on the earth.

[2Th 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/8/s_1118008) Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

[2Th 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/9/s_1118009) *that is,* the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders,

What we see now is only a small portion of what will be let loose in the 7 years of Tribulation.

/[2Th 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/10/s_1118010) and **with all the deception of wickedness**for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

The deception, trickery and counterfeits of Satan will come to its full supremacy after the rapture of the church.\

We are living in the build-up and foundational period. It is important to not only understand that, but also, to recognize these warnings are not simply Tribulation warnings, they are pertinent for the CA right now!

[2Th 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/11/s_1118011) For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

[2Th 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/12/s_1118012) in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

There are whole denominations and spiritual movements that are swept up into a lie…a counterfeit. That will carry some people into the 7 years of Tribulation if it begins in the weeks or months ahead.

Anyone who is truly not born again and saved, is at risk to walk right into the Tribulation period like willing slaves of Satan’s demonic system.

Jump over to 2Corinthians chapter 11.

/Truth is singular; Therefore, each Believer must reach a point of standing in exactly what they believe. Or they will fall for Satan’s trickery and counterfeits. Satan has had a constant system, of false prophets, counterfeits as evangelists, preachers, teachers and even apostles throughout history. Counterfeit Christians and Counterfeit Israelites. The Tares among the Wheat is a reality throughout Biblical history.\

Sitting on the fence gives you nothing but splinters in your butt and confusion in your soul.

Now in this section of 2Corinthians the Apostle Paul is simply reminding the few skeptics left at Corinth that he was teaching them the truth.

The liars and false teachers had some success with this congregation. This congregation had come back from some serious infractions the year prior to this letter.

The Apostle Paul is reaffirming his authority.

/2Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the **serpent deceived** **Eve by his trickery**, your **minds will be led astray** from sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

There has never been a time where Satan and his minions have not been busy infiltrating the truth. This is one of the main battlegrounds of spiritual warfare – the mind (soul).\

The deception and counterfeit of the truth is always a consistent avenue of attack for Satan. Because God’s plan and HIS word are pure veracity – God is pure righteousness, pure truth and pure justice.

There are no shifting shadows with God.

/[2Co 11:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/4/s_1089004) For if one comes and **preaches another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or you receive **a different spirit**which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted, *this* you tolerate *very* well!

The reason the Apostle Paul emphasizes the counterfeit spirit, gospel and Christ, was because there was false teaching in this realm.\

For Bels not to assume this only increased over time is blatant foolishness.

JUMP DOWN A FEW VERSES;

2Cor 11:10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

[2Co 11:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/11/s_1089011) Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *that I do!*

/[2Co 11:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/12/s_1089012) But what I am doing I will also *continue to* do, **so that I may eliminate the opportunity from those who want an opportunity to be regarded just as we are** in the matter about which they are boasting.

Those he was pointing out, were Gnostics, false teachers and counterfeit apostles.\

Each dispensation and generation has its share of false teachers and satanic workers infiltrating and counterfeiting the plan of God.

[2Co 11:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/13/s_1089013) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

/2Cor 11:13-

False Apostles, *pseudapostolos,* imposters and liars (counterfiet)

Deceitful Workers, *dolios ergatēs,* very subtle deception, a skillful worker or artist of his trade.

Disguising Themselves, *metaschēmatizō,* to appear differently, to act or apply a mask for illusion.\

SUE-DOE-APOSS-DA-LOSS,

DOLLY-US (subtilty) AIR-GOT-ACE,

MAT-ACK-MA-TEEZ-MO, this was a term used in the Greek theater for actors or those who put on a masquerade show.

All the Apostles and early church teachers consistently warned and taught their congregations about false teachers.

REPEAT

This is never a subject matter you can ignore. This is a large portion of Satan’s plan for the beast system.

[2Co 11:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/14/s_1089014) No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

This is a dual meaning – it is showing us angels are beings of illumination but also, Satan and his army can appear as doing something good for humanity.

They appear as a guiding light; they can appear as doing that which humanity views as - GOOD.

[2Co 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/15/s_1089015) Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

The servants are willing pawns of Satan.

Remember how Satan attacked the woman in the garden;

/Gen 3:5 “For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will come like God, knowing good and evil.”**

Satan offers that which appears truthful and illuminating – it is all deception and counterfeits.\

Demonic, false teachers and counterfeits are incredibly deceiving, because they appear to be leading you in a good direction.

It appeals to the OSN – human good.

Jump over to 1Timothy chapter 4.

Folks you can not evangelize and speak truth if you do not stand in truth!

The battle we are called to fight demands accuracy of the word.

Because Satan is playing for keeps in the arena of deception.

/Gal 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, **for a different gospel,** 7 which is not just another *account;* but there are some who are disturbing you and want **to distort the gospel of Christ**.\

The one world religious system being pushed slowly and methodically, all around us, will be the final success that Satan has been attempting since the fall of the garden.

The one world system is only lacking one element and that is the religious system. The one world banking is nearly on top of us right now.

The one world government is being pushed for many years now as well.

The last piece of the puzzle will be a religious system.

/[Gal 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/1/8/s_1092008) But even if we, or **an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel** contrary to what we have preached to you, **he is to be accursed**!

The Apostle Paul was well aware of the power of fallen angels and Satan’s plans. This is why he was very specific to write about angels and beings of light (2Cor 11)\

Satan has developed a system of doctrine; the Apostle Paul was firm in his teaching about his counterfeits;

/1Tim 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, **paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,**

Doctrines of devils and those who promote false teachings. This is pointing to deep deception, one who is possessed or influenced by demonic forces.\

We are in the later days - we are now on the cusp of the coming end times.

As I have taught you recently- *the days of Noah*, highlight the time before the flood.

The flood is a type of TRIBULATION.

The ark was a typology of the RAPTURE.

Those who are in CHRIST are saved from the wrath to come.

/[1Ti 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ti/4/2/s_1123002) by means of **the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience** as with a branding iron, 3 **who forbid marriage** *and advocate* **abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared** in by those who believe and know the truth.

Religion which emerged from the false teachers, demonic liars and Gnostics in the days of the apostles.\

This became the beginnings of denominational dogma by the end of the 1st century and into the beginning of the 2nd century.

Judaism already had strict restrictions and rules.

Then along comes a new mixture of rules and legalistic regulations with the formation of the Roman Catholic Church.

The counterfeits become very apparent.

There are groups of modern-day Gnostics today…there are all types of different denominations today.

Satan has a counterfeit for everything!

Satan has a communion table — The devil’s communion table is idolatry. The lifestyle not only far removed from the plan of GOD, but a worship system of evil.

/1Cor 10:20 *No,* but *I say* that things which *the Gentiles* **sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God**; and I do not want you to become partners with demons.

The sacrifice of any of our time, talent and treasure toward the things of this world can become a form of idol worship.\

There was also the worship of gods from all cultures going on back then – the BAAL system takes on many names and many forms.

When a large portion of your attention goes toward something or someone – that is a form of worship, a sacrifice of what GOD has given you in the realm of time, talent and treasure.

[/1Co 10:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/21/s_1072021) **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons**; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

Drinking the cup of the LORD speaks to not only the Lord’s Supper, but our personal relationship (fellowship) and personal destiny inside the plan of GOD.\

 Satan is an expert at obscuring the truth! His tactics in the garden and methods are all the same.

He finds new angles for the same old trickery.

/2Cor 4:3 And even **if our gospel is veiled**, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving** so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

IF – a first class condition, because the Apostle Paul knows this to be a fact!\

If you are the source of truth amongst your circle of family and friends you had better be prepared.

Each of us are called into spiritual warfare…each of us called to evangelize!

Each of us are called to grow in God’s grace and knowledge.

Satan and his army are well aware what the battle is. They know where the battlefield lies and They know their adversary…do you!?