

Sermon Handout

Fear Not the Judgment

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

- I.** St. Paul's Warning vv. 1-3a
- a. We request of ("urge") you (*cf.* the first verb in I Thess 4:1)
 - b. "by the coming . . ." actually the word "presence"
Not "on behalf of" or "because of" these things
But "I am writing now about these matters"
"As to the Lord's presence and our gathering to him . . ."
cf. Mt 24:31; Heb 10:25; Jas 2:2
 - c. "Do not be quickly shaken in mind" (not "in spirit" *cf.* I Cor 14:14)
Don't allow your thinking to be driven off course *cf.* Eph 4:14
"Do not be disturbed" *cf.* Mt 24:6
 - i. By spirit (supernatural communications) *cf.* Mt 24:24
 - ii. By word (spoken, as in a sermon)
 - iii. By letters (claiming apostolic authority)
 - d. "that day" not in the text, but implied by the context
Temporal judgment! *cf.* I Thess 5:1-2; *contra* II Thess 1:10
see Mt 21:42-44 (*cf.* 23:37-39); 26:64 (*cf.* 24:30)
- II.** St. Paul's Explanation vv. 3b-12
- a. Precursors of the temporal judgment vv. 3b-4
 - i. "falling away" (apostacy) – religious or political?
Josephus: Jews at war against Rome = "apostacy"
see Mt 22:1-14; I Thess 2:14-16
 - ii. The man of sin revealed (son of perdition, opposes God)
 - b. Paul is reminding them of what he already taught in person v. 5
The certainty of ending the old order is part of the gospel
 - c. You now know what the restraining force is! v. 6
Neuter participle for the word "the thing restraining"
 - d. The godless mystery is already at work v. 7
 - i. The restraining one will be taken away
 - ii. Masculine participle for "the restrainer"
 - iii. Latin for this word is "claudere" hence, Claudius
 - e. Then will the wicked man rise to power (this is Nero) v. 8
 - i. Agrippina poisons Claudius, bringing Nero to power
 - ii. Nero seeks to unseat YHWH on his throne *cf.* Mt 24:24-28
 - iii. Set up by Nero, Titus destroys Jerusalem vv. 10-12
 - iv. But Christ destroys Nero v. 8b (Rome ultimately collapses)

May the grace of God comfort his people with this understanding vv. 16-17.