

***Christ Is In Control!***  
***2 Thessalonians 2:6-12***

**Introduction:**

1. **IE:** Have You Ever Been On A Roller Coaster That Seems Like It Is Going To Fly Off The Track?
  - Evil Seems To Be Out Of Control, Like Today's Roller Coasters!
    - Movies / TV / Internet / Newscasts!
2. Thessalonians Saw The Same Thing!
  - They Knew What Things Would Be Like Before The Return Of Jesus Christ From Heaven - In Fact, Paul Told Them These Things! (2:5)
  - So, They Thought That The "Day Of Christ" Had Already Come (2:2) - Because Of How Bad Things Were & Because Of What Others Were Telling Them!
    - But Paul Explained To Them That The "Day Of Christ" Had Not Yet Come & That Things Were Going To Get Even Worse Before He Comes! Even More Out Of Control!
  - Not Too Comforting! Until, Beginning In Verse 6, He Teaches That No Matter What, Christ Is Still In Control!
    - Don't Need To Be Concerned!
      - "Shaken In Mind" / "Troubled" In Heart! (2:2)
    - But: ***Take Comfort In The Fact That Christ Is In Control!***
      - No Matter What!
3. How Does Christ Show His Control Over Evil?
  - When It Seems Like It Is Spinning Out Of Control!
    - Remember, That Like A Roller Coaster, It Is Still On A Track – The Track Of Christ's Control! It Is Limited In Its Duration & It Has A Definite Destination!

**1. *The Lord Restrains Evil!***

- 2:6-7 - "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. / For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way!"
- There Is A Spiritual Energy At Work Today!
  - "The Mystery Of Iniquity!" (2:7)
  - This Is The Evil / Sin We See Everywhere Today – Seems To Increase Every Day! Remember: Christ Is In Control!
  - How? He Restrains Evil! **IE:** In The Netherlands, 27% Of The Country Is Below Sea Level, But Still Lies Along The Cold, Strong North Sea! After Many Tragic Floods – Killing Thousands & Losing Hundreds Of Square Miles Of Land – Started Building Dikes - Made From Stones, Clay & Sand - To Hold Back / Restrain The Water From Destroying Land & Buildings & Homes & People! (Hans Brinker - Finger - Dike)
- He Restrains Evil For His Purpose!
  - "That He Might Be Revealed In His Time!"
  - God Has A Plan In Place & Is Now, Right Now, Working It Out In Time! There Is A "Time" That Belongs To This Anti-Christ - But Until Then, God Is Restraining The Influence Of Evil & Sin!
  - But There Will Come A Time When, His Restraint Will "Be Taken Out Of The Way!" – And Evil Will Be Allowed To Rule Completely For A Very Short Time – Still Under His Control & For His Purpose!
- He Restrains Evil Through A Person!
  - "He Who Now Letteth Will Let!"
  - Talks About A Real Person With Power Who Restrains!
  - Believe The Holy Spirit Is In View, Because There Will Come A Time When His Influence In & Through The Church Will Be Removed From This World!
- He Restrains Evil In The Present!
  - But Until Then, "The Mystery Of Iniquity Doth Already Work!"
  - You Personally Experience This Every Time You Are Tempted Or Confronted With Sin!
  - The Lord Is In Control Of The Evil We See Now!
  - Pray & Ask The Lord To Restrain The Evil In Your Life Today, As He Will In The Future!

- Jesus - Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:13 - "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil!"
- Be Confident In & Take Comfort In The Fact That Christ Is In Control! Even Of The Evil You Face Today!

## 2. ***The Lord Removes Evil!***

- 2:8-10 - "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: / Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, / And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved!"
- There Is Another Spiritual Energy That Will Be At Work During The Time Of The Anti-Christ!
  - 2:9 - "The Working Of Satan" Himself!
  - If You Think Its Bad Now, Nothing Compared To Then!
  - The Lord's Restraint Will Be "Taken Out Of The Way" & There Will Be Nothing To Hinder Satan's Work & Man!
    - But Even Then, Under The Worst Possible Environment Of Sin, Christ Is In Control!
  - How? He Removes Evil! **IE:** Like Engineers Who Can Control The Spillway Of A Dam! They Can Control When Water Comes Out & How Much! They Also Can Control When To Stop It! And So Does The Lord! He Can & Will Stop & Remove Evil! He Is In Complete Control!
- The Incarnation Of Evil!
  - "Then Shall That Wicked [One] Be Revealed!"
    - The "Man Of Sin" & "Son Of Perdition" (2:3)!
  - He Will Be A Real Man!
    - But He Will Be Completely Possessed & Used By Satan Himself!
    - But He Won't Last Long! Christ Will Also Remove:
- The Impression Of Evil!
  - This Anti-Christ Will Impress Many – Even Most People In That Day! Mark 13:22 - "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect!"
  - Through The Authority Of His "Power!"
  - Through The Attraction Of His "Signs!"
  - Through The Amazement Of His "Wonders!"
  - But They Are All Counterfeits! "Lying!" Jesus Displayed Power - "Miracles And Wonders And Signs" - But Was "Approved Of God!" (Acts 2:22) & Was Rejected By Men! This Anti-Christ Will Display "All Power And Signs And Lying Wonders" - But Is "After The Working Of Satan!"
  - And Will Be Followed & Worshiped!
  - But They Won't Last Long Either! Christ Will Also Remove:
- The Influence Of Evil!
  - He Will Use The "Deceivableness Of Unrighteousness" To Influence Those Who Reject Jesus & Yet Follow After Him!
    - Sin Is Deceptive! Outside, It Is Appealing – But Inside, It Is Appalling!
    - Proverbs 23:31-32 - "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. / At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder!" (Example)
    - But He Will Have An Audience That Is "Ready & Willing" To Follow Him! Why?
      - Because "Received Not The Love Of The Truth!"
      - Everything About Christ & The Gospel Is Lovely!
      - Yet, They Continue To Love Unrighteousness!
- But Christ Will Come & Remove Evil!
  - "Whom The Lord Shall Consume With The Spirit [Breath] Of His Mouth, And Shall Destroy With The Brightness Of His Coming!"
  - All It Will Take Is His Breath!
    - **IE:** Like Blowing The White Head Of A Dandelion!
    - Job 4:9 - "By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed!"

- All It Will Take Is His Presence!

- In Revelation 19:19-21, Great Effort Is Taken To Gather Together The World's Army Against God! But When Christ Shows Up, Its All Over! "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. / And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. / And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh!"

- Be Confident In & Take Comfort In The Fact That Christ Is In Control!

### 3. *The Lord Reproves Evil!*

- 2:11-12 - "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: / That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness!"

- But What About Those Who Follow After Evil & The Evil One?

- God Will Judge Them!

- Not Only When They Die!

- But Also While They Live!

- "And For This Cause – Because They Received Not The Love Of The Truth – God Will Send Them Strong Delusion – The Energy Of Error!" – Which Will Cause Them To Believe The Devil's Lie Even More Than They Already Did!

- This Spiritual Energy Is Sent By God Himself! A "Strong Delusion!"

- This Is Part Of God's Judgment Of Their Sin & Rejection Of The Truth! And Through It, He Reproves Evil!

- **IE:** On March 31, 1889, The Entire Town Of Johnstown, PA, Was Wiped Out When The South Fork Dam Was Completely Overwhelmed By Flood Waters & The Water Came Rushing Down 40 MPH & 60 Feet High, Killing 2,209 People, Including 99 Entire Families! The Worst Part Of The Tragedy – They Were Warned No Less Than 3 Times Before The Dam Broke – They Had Plenty Of Time & Opportunity To Escape - But, They Chose To Ignore The Warnings - And They Perished!

- This Judgment Is Deserved! They Ignored God's Previous Warnings!

- It Was "For This Cause" – Because They Did Not Receive The Gospel & Were Not Saved – That God Will Judge Them In This Way! They Are Guilty & Responsible!

- This Judgment Is Dangerous!

- "That They All Might Be Damned!"

- His Purpose Is To Punish! But It Is Their Own Fault!

- They "Believed Not The Truth, But Had Pleasure In Unrighteousness!"

- This Judgment Will Happen Then!

- But This Judgment Does Happen Now!

- This Same Kind Of Judgment Is Found In Romans 1!

- Where Those Who "Knew God . . . Glorified Him Not As God!" (1:21)

- Therefore, God Judges Some In This Life As Well As After Death!

- 1:24 - "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts!"

- 1:26 - "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections!"

- 1:28 - "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient!"

- This Is Why The Message Of The Gospel Is So Urgent!

- For You! For Others! There May Come A Time In One's Life, When In Judgment, God Leaves Them In Their Sin!

- This Is Why This Judgment Is So Dangerous!

- When Will You "Believe The Truth" And Turn From The "Pleasure In Unrighteousness?" Completely, With All Of Your Heart!

- But, Only When You "Believe The Truth!"

- You Can Take Comfort That Christ Is In Control!

**Conclusion:**

1. The Anti-Christ Will Come!  
- But The Lord Is Still In Complete Control!
2. What About The Evil You Face Today?  
- Do Not Need To Be Worried – But Trusting In His Control Even Today!
3. When It Seems Like The Roller Coaster Of Sin & This World Is Out Of Control, Remember That It Is Still Attached To The Track Of God's Perfect Plan! ***Take Comfort In The Fact That Christ Is In Control!***

***Grace Baptist Church***

***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***

***4245 North 200 West***

***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***

***317-326-2362***

***[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)***

***[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)***

***[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)***