



# **THE FUTURE TODAY!**

**Prophecy Meetings**

## **The Strong Delusion!**

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

**Sermon given on November 14, 2021**



**Sunday Afternoon Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Strong Delusion!

## ***2 Thessalonians 2:1-12***

### Opening Comments

- Welcome to the **FUTURE TODAY** prophecy meeting
- We are living in very strange and confusing times
- For example, last week about 12 thousand women exercised their basic human right to seek help from women's reproductive health professionals – they call it a social good
- That confuses me because 12 thousand babies died for the 'good' of their mothers – we call that abortion – evil
- We are living in the times Isaiah said would come **Isaiah 5:20-21**  
**Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!**
- Even something as obvious as gender is now totally confused in the culture
- President Biden recently celebrated the appointment of a man as the first female 4-star admiral because this man says he thinks he is a woman
- What is going on in this world?
- Paul tells us – turn to **2 Thessalonians 2**
- What we see going on today was predicted 2,500 years ago by Isaiah and explained 2,000 years ago by Paul
- This is one of the signs Jesus warned us would come before He returns for His church
- Paul writing to the church in Thessalonica
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4**
- The church, which was experiencing persecution, was being told by some that it was a sign that they were in the Tribulation right before Jesus came back
- Paul says, no it is not!
- Before it happens there has to be a great turning away from the faith and the rise of the 'man of sin' – the Antichrist
- That can't happen now because something else must happen first
- **2 Thessalonians 2:5-8**

- Before the Antichrist is revealed and free to do Satan's ultimate will, the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit must stop restraining him and the evil he wishes to do
- That will happen at the Rapture of the church
- Once the Antichrist is no longer restrained by the Holy Spirit, Satan is going to empower him to rule the whole world
- **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**
- God loves everyone He created and offers them salvation from the penalty of their sins through the atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross
- Jesus on the cross is the truth of God's love
- But "they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved..."
- By rejecting Jesus, they have rejected God and His truth
- Therefore, they won't be saved
- And there is a temporal penalty for rejecting the love of the truth
- **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**
- Those who reject God's love and truth will be rewarded with God's punishment and judgment
- One of those punishments is 'God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie'
- There are a couple of definitions for the word delusion
- Delusion: a belief that is not true: a false idea – and: a false idea or belief that is caused by mental illness.
- For example, it is a false idea that a baby in the womb is nothing more than a clump of cells – rather than a divinely created image-bearer of God
- Another example: it is a mental disorder for a man to believe that he is a woman – called Gender Dysphoria
- Our culture has rejected God's love and truth and He has sent them a strong delusion as a punishment
- Many of the things we see going on in our culture can be seen as the consequence of God's punishment on those who have rejected His love and truth

- God doesn't promote to the lies that they are believing – that's Satan's role – God simply causes them to yield themselves fully to what they desire more than Him and His love and truth
- Even though they have sold themselves to the deception – to the lie
- We are called to be vessels of God's love and truth to the world

**Matthew 5:14-16**

**You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- Those to whom God has sent the strong delusion are not likely to appreciate the light that shines out of your life
- They love the darkness too much to be led out of it
- But never forget, you were once trapped in darkness, and someone let their light shine into your life and God saved you
- Let your light shine!
- Pastor Randy will now share some of the things we need to know