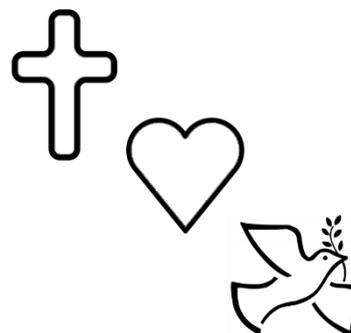


February 14, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 11
Stand Firm



This series of meditations is based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

2 Thessalonians Chapter 2:13-15

¹³But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

Stand Firm

Paul is warning about the revelation about the “man of lawlessness” – the Anti-Christ (vs 1-12). He also writes that the spirit of this person is already working in many false teachers in the church. He names some of them too. Then he explains how to face this and follow the truth – The Truth – which is none other than JESUS, the Christ.

A. Revelation of the Anti-Christ (vs 3-12)

He is described as the man of lawlessness. (vs 3) What will he do?

- * Oppose God (vs 4)
- * Exalt himself over everything that is called God.
- * Declare himself as God, occupying the throne and demanding people to worship him.
- * Paul writes that he will be revealed at the proper time. (vs 5, 8)

Then Paul writes that the secret power of lawlessness is already working in the world. (vs 7)

How does this power work?

- * Counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders. (vs 9)
- * Presenting lies – remember he is a liar, opposite of the Truth (Christ) (vs 10)
- * Deceiving – people who are perishing – who refused to love the Truth and don't want to be saved. They are in a delusion, believing a lie and delighting in wickedness.

Remember the declaration of this Man of Lawlessness in Isaiah 14:12-14:

- a. He was fallen from heaven.
- b. He contemplated in his heart:
 - * I will ascend to heaven;
 - * I will raise my throne above the stars of God.

This is the spirit working in the church. Paul and others in the New Testament describe people and their actions affected by this spirit.

Titus 1:11 – Wrong teachings for the sake of dishonest gain.

1 Timothy 6:5 – “Constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.”

2 Corinthians 11:26 – Paul says he has been “in danger from false brothers.”

Philemon 9 – appeal to act out of love

2 Timothy 1:15 – Phygelus and Hermogenes – did not keep to sound teachings and deserted Paul. (They did not like Paul being put into prison, they were ashamed of Paul’s chains. Paul went to prison not because of wrong-doings but of preaching the gospel).

1 John 2:18-20 – “... they went out from us ... but you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.”

2 John 7 – “Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh” (incarnation), “have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the Antichrist.”

3 John 9 – “Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us.” (“Who this man was, was not known and all speculation is useless. Regarding character he is known as being proud, ambitious, exclusive, malicious, inhospitable and rebellious against Apostolic authority.” (vs 9-10) *Dakes’ Annotated Bible.*)

B. Call to Believers to Stand Firm (vs. 13-15)

But we – the believers of the truth and knowing the truth are:

- * loved by the Lord,
- * chosen from the beginning,
- * saved through the sanctification work of the Spirit,

- * and through belief in the truth,
- * so we can stand firm and hold to the teaching.

We are the people of Christ:

Not my will but the will of the Lord be done, just the opposite of Satan and his followers. (Isaiah 14)

Paul writes in Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

John 17:3 – What is eternal life? “That they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Paul again, writing to the Philippian church, vs 3:7-11, especially verse 10, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” (Becoming like him, not displacing or replacing him.)