



“Standing Firm To The End” (II Thessalonians 2:13-3:5)

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Review:

- * Two prerequisites before Christ returns:
 - The Rebellion (defection from truth)
 - Man of lawlessness revealed
- * As we get closer to the end (Great Tribulation), the power of lawlessness will increase.
 - As a result, deception will also increase (Matthew 24:24).
 - Satan is a liar and the father of lies. Led a third of the angels in rebellion against God, deceived man into forfeiting paradise, has some people convinced they are saved when they are really lost (Matt.7:21-23; II Cor.11:13-14).
- * The need to persevere (Read today’s text).
 - II John 2:18-19; II Peter 3:17
 - Did you know that Satan sends people to the church in order to try and lead people astray? (Acts 20:28-31; Romans 16:17-19)

Essentials For Standing Firm

1. Encouragement

- Heb.10:24-25

2. Strength
3. Deliverance from wicked and evil men
4. God's love
5. Christ's perseverance

The Evil Ways Of Our Enemy

INTIMIDATION/FEAR

- * Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night?
- * Why wouldn't Pilate do the right thing and set Jesus free?
- * Why would not many who believed in Jesus openly confess their faith?

- John 12:42

SEDUCTION

- * Num.25:1-2; I Kings 11:3

DECEPTION

- * One of the ways Satan deceives us is by enticing us to doubt the character of God.
- * Doubting God's goodness (Gen.3:5); Satan disguises himself as the good guy and tries to make God out to be the bad guy.
- * Doubting God's justice (Jer. 12 & 20)
- * Doubting God's faithfulness

DEVASTATION

- * Devastate: Bring to ruin or desolation; reduce to chaos, disorder, or helplessness; to cause severe and overwhelming shock or grief.
- * See John 10:10

* Great mystery why God allows Satan to afflict believers, while sometimes the unbeliever seems to have little or no trouble at that same time...

* Job

* Psalm 73:1-5, 13-14, 16

* Jeremiah 12:1; 20; Habakkuk 1:12-13; 24b; 3:16b-19

* John the Baptist (Luke 7:18-23); Peter miraculously delivered from prison, while John died in prison.

* Heb.11:32-37