

# Two Spirits in the World

Outline

Introduction

II Thessalonians 2:1-17

Rick Peterson

- I. The recovery of the biblical definition of the gospel and the church.
  - a) Two Spirits in the world; The Spirit of Christ, and the spirit of antichrist. This provided the spiritual backdrop for all that is happening in the world including the spiritual warfare against the church.
  - b) Spiritual warfare is a battle for the mind—the Christian mind. The devil does not battle for the mind of the unbeliever, he already has it (II Corinthians 4:4; I John 5:19).
  - c) Paul’s concern is that these believers not be shaken in mind. Paul writes elsewhere regarding the Christian mind: cf. II Corinthians 10:1-6; 11:1-2; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:5.
  - d) How we think matters. How we think about Christ is revealed in how we think about his gospel, and his church.
  
- II. The Biblical Theology of the gospel and the church
  - a) GOSPEL: “God’s eschatological salvation effected by the death and resurrection of Christ, and empowered and applied by the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost.” Which then determines our view of the church . . .
  - b) CHURCH: “An eschatological community living out the life of the future by the power of the Spirit as they await the consummation.” A people of God who share his character in relation to one another.
  
- III. “Eschatology” is the study of the end-times, or end-things. What will happen in the end of human history?

- a) New Testament eschatology is an “inaugurated eschatology” meaning what God plans for the end-time he has already begun in the coming of Christ so that believers are eschatological people — living in a now but not yet state.
- b) Two perversions: 1) Eschatology of future only with no effect occurring in the present age; 2) Over-realized eschatology in which all that Christ died to bring about has already been realized (the hyper-Charismatic world of health and wealth gospel of victory; triumphalism).

IV. Biblical definition of mental health

- a) A mind set on love for the truth.
- b) This is why we must be discerning and mature in the faith, our spiritual, mental, relational, health depend on our love for the truth.
- c) Insanity is willful acceptance of the lie.
- d) Battle for the mind does not imply an academic or intellectual ground alone, for Christianity is existential, experiential, as well as eschatological. But experience must follow thought; we must have a mind set on the truth to have healthy experiential spirituality.
- e) The Charismania perversion is an example of placing subjective experience before objective truth.

Next episode: The great falling away and the man of sin defined.

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