

# 2 Thessalonians 2, The Culmination of Human History

## 1. Two Comings (Parousias) 2:1-8, 9

### Christ's

1 Thes 4:15, 2 Thes 2:1,8

- a. Personal
- b. Public
- c. Powerful- with miracles; revealing

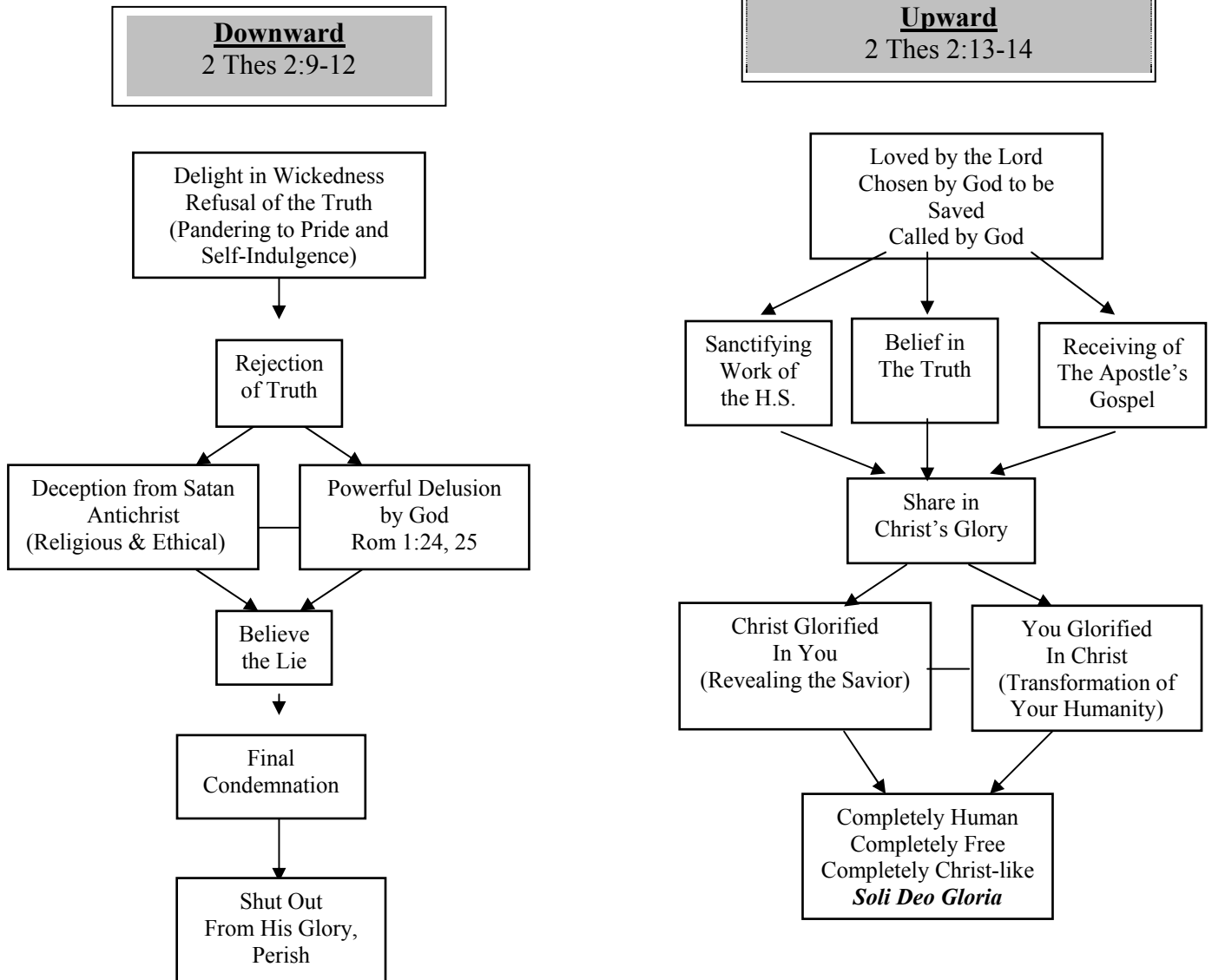
### Antichrist's

2 Thes 2:9

- a. Personal
- b. Public
- c. Powerful- with counterfeit miracles, deceiving

- Groups:
- a) By what means will the lawless one deceive people?
  - b) Why will certain people be ripe to be deceived (vv. 9-12)?
  - c) What will overcome this man of lawlessness? (v. 8)?

## 2. Two Paths for Humanity 2:9-12, 13-14



## Four Periods of History 2:1-12

- Period of Restraint
- Period of Rebellion
- Period of Revelation
- Period of Retribution

## 3. Application 2:13-17

- Stand Firm & Hold Fast
  - Religiously- in beliefs holding to the teaching
  - Ethically- in deeds reflecting God's goodness and love
  - Emotionally and Mentally- in hope of Christ's return
- Be Encouraged and Strengthened by the triune God

This takes us back to Paul's original description of the growing Christian from his first letter:

1 Thes 1:9b-10, People who are:

**Turning** to God from idols  
**Serving** the living and true God  
**Waiting** for His Son from heaven

1 Thes 1:3, People for whom:

Their **work** is produced by **faith**  
Their **labor** is prompted by **love**  
Their **endurance** is inspired by **hope**

[Memory Verses](#)

## 2 Thessalonians 3, Christian Responsibilities

**Review** There were three dangerous groups in the Thessalonian Church

<b>Who</b>	<b>Paul's Response to Them</b>
1. Persecutors	God's Justice is Sure (2 Thes 1)
2. False Teachers	Rebellion, Anti-Christ, Doom, Christ's Splendor (2 Thes 2)
3. Loafers	Warn, Disassociate (2 Thes 3)

### Pray (vv 1-5)

- For "us"
  - > To spread the gospel
  - For the gospel to be honored
  - > To be delivered from evil men
- Directing of our hearts to
  - > God's love
  - > Christ's perseverance

### Keep Away From (vv 6-9)

- The idle
- The disobedient

### Never Tire of Doing What is Right (vv 10-15)

- Not work = not eat
- Disassociate and warn
- Never tire

### Guidelines For Church Discipline

1. Needed for persistent acts against clear apostolic teaching
2. Nature of the discipline includes admonition and, if necessary, social ostracism or a withdrawal from intimate association
3. Responsibility goes to the whole church membership
4. Spirit is to be serious, but not hostile
5. Purpose is to restore and win over

### Final Thoughts About Paul's Tone

Stern and serious  
Personal and approachable

### Group Questions

- a. What do you think idleness has to do with a person's relationship to Christ? Why?
- b. Are there any ways in which you tend toward idleness? How do Paul's words inspire you to change?
- c. How do you respond to Church Discipline as it is outlined above? If possible, share in your group an example or two of Church Discipline.