



God literally and Unquestionably knows the outcome of lawlessness and rebellious actions!

“We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, “1 Timothy 1:9.

Paul reiterates the message in calling out the evil one, the Anti-Christ controlled by Satan.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-12, “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the brightness of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”

“The **mystery of lawlessness is already at work**”: This great **principle** of evil is already present in the world. It will be ultimately unveiled in the anti-christ, but he does not introduce a *new* wickedness into the world, only an intensity of prior wickedness.

Right now, this **lawlessness** is a **mystery** – that it is, it can only be seen and understood by revelation. Otherwise it is hidden.

“And then the lawless one will be revealed”:

Paul states two (2) certain facts about the man of sin; here called **the lawless one**.

1. It is certain that the **lawless one will be revealed** when the Holy Spirit removes His restraint.
2. It is certain that the **lawless one** will be destroyed by the mere **brightness** of Jesus at **His coming**.

Paul probably has [Isaiah 11:4](#) in mind: “He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.”

Whoever the man of sin is, he has not had his career yet. We know this because at the end of his career, the man of sin is destroyed by Jesus Christ Himself. The Man of Sin will be sent to hell...along with his “Vice” President

Encouragement for the Thessalonian Believers.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (NKJV).

Paul gives thanks and encouragement for God’s work in the hearts of the Thessalonians

“**But we are bound to give thanks**”: Paul repeats his idea from [2 Thessalonians 1:3](#), that he was obligated to thank God for the work God had empowered in the Thessalonians, in light of the greatness of that work by God.

“**Brethren beloved by the Lord**”: Paul is first thankful that they are **beloved by the Lord**. God’s love for us is the primary motivation for all His work in and through us.

One of the primary thoughts as we read this verse is “God loves us so much that He gave us His only Begotten Son...that whosoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.”

In this meaning “begotten,” means “one of a kind; unique” (Greek). In Hebrew it means “one of a kind, unique and incomparable.” Paul is saying to the Thessalonians that when we are “born again” we are “one of a kind and unique “in the sense that God can use you for a specific purpose if you are willing to be used according to His Word.

The Hebrew definition can only mean that which was uniquely born and has “incomparable characteristics”...In this sense, “God in the flesh. God’s only Begotten Son, Jesus.”

Because God from the beginning chose you for salvation: Paul also praised the sovereign choice of God in bringing the Thessalonians to salvation.

Again, it doesn't mean that there are some poor souls destined for hell before they are born. "God is not willing that any man perish, but that all might come to repentance."

*2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not **willing** that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

"From the beginning! The beginning of creation was preceded by the **anticipation** of Redemption, and the love of God to all who were one with Christ." (Meyer)

"Salvation through sanctification": These two terms go together. Those who claim to be chosen but lack evidence of **sanctification** (separation *from* the world and *unto* God) are on an unstable platform (shaky ground). Missouri is a "Show Me" state. Meaning that the state wants evidence of one's actions. Biblically and physically we can't see if a person is *chosen* by God, but we can see if they are *sanctified*.

"Had it been possible for you to have had salvation without sanctification, it would have been a curse to you instead of a blessing. If such a thing were possible, I cannot conceive of a more lamentable condition than for a man to, have the happiness of salvation without the holiness of it. If you could be saved from the consequences of sin, but not from the sin itself, and its power and pollution, it would be no blessing to you." (Spurgeon)

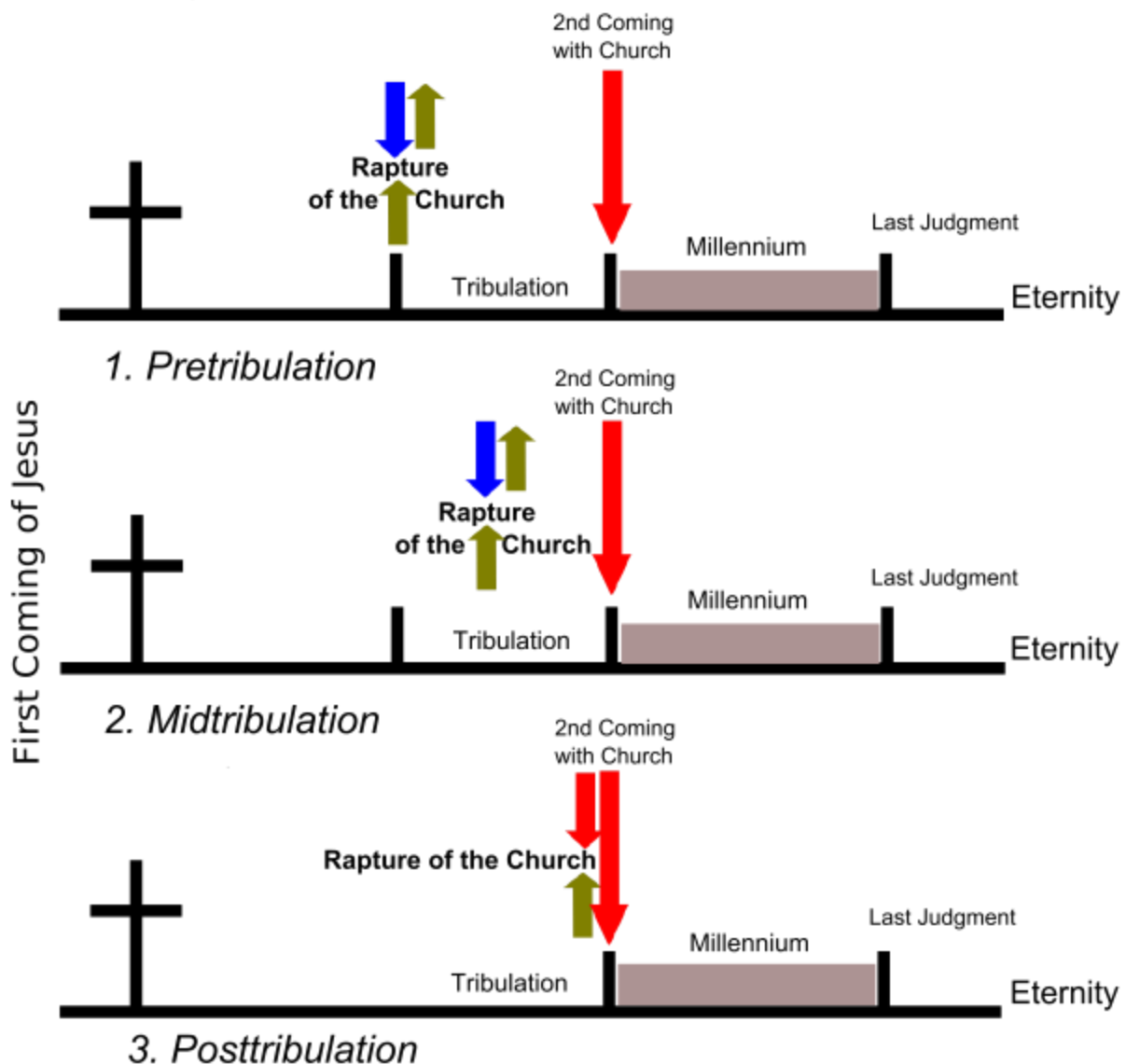
"By the Spirit and belief in the truth": God's work of sanctification uses two great forces, the **Spirit** and the **belief in the truth**. The Spirit of God and the Word of God are **essential** to our **sanctification**.

- **Spirit of God...** *Romans 8:9, "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."*
- **Word of God...** *Romans 10:17* **"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."**

"To which He called you by our gospel: He calls us to salvation. It comes through the **gospel**, the Gospel Paul preached (*we preach Christ crucified, 1 Corinthians 1:23*), and the Gospel that will enable us to obtain the glory of Jesus.

For the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ: This is the same glory John wrote of in *1 John 3:2*, "We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Comparison of Christian Tribulation Views



Pre-Trib view = Jesus comes back for His Bride (the Church...believers) before the 7 Year Tribulation.

Mid-Trib view = Jesus comes for the church after 3 ½ years of the 7 year Tribulation Period.

Post-Trib view = Jesus comes for the church when he annihilates the anti-christ and false prophet...and chains Satan for 1000 years (Millennium).

Your homework will be to come up with Scriptures to support your view.

BELOVED SON SCRIPTURES

1. [Matthew 3:17](#), “and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”
2. [Matthew 17:5](#), “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”
3. [Mark 1:11](#), “and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”
4. [Mark 9:7](#), “Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!”
5. [Luke 3:22](#), “and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”
6. [Colossians 1:13](#), “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”
7. [2 Peter 1:17](#), “For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—

Paul called the Thessalonian Church believers “beloved by God.” God called His Son “Beloved Son” over and over in the Scriptures. As recipients of His grace, we are also called “beloved sons and daughters” as joint heirs with Jesus; adopted sons and daughters.

Praise God for His grace and mercy!