

## LAST WEEK OVERVIEW

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God...**Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with **all** power and signs and lying wonders, And with **all** deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved**. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that **they should believe a lie**: That **they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness**.*

*II Thessalonians 2:3-4 & 9-12*

There are 2 subjects being discussed in this passage:

- (1) The man of sin.
- (2) Those who succumb to him.

Regarding the man of sin, we note the following:

- (A) He *opposes* all that is called God, or that is worshiped (as God).
- (B) He *exalts himself above* all that is called God, or that is worshiped (as God).
- (C) He will come with “*all*” power and signs and lying wonders.
- (D) He will sit in the “temple” of God.

Regarding the people who succumb to him, we note the following:

- (A) They do not believe the truth.
- (B) They do not love the truth.
- (C) They have pleasure in unrighteousness. (*See: I. Cor. 6:9-10*)
- (D) They will “perish”.
- (E) They will be “damned”.

~ I said we can be sure the people Paul are talking about (who succumb to the man of sin) are Christians because there is no need to send the unsaved a “*strong delusion...that they all might be damned*—they are already damned. Satan is not seeking to deceive and devour the unsaved. He has *already* deceived and devoured them. He is seeking to deceive and devour God’s people. He is after “the Temple”.

Paul is not talking about those who are already lost in this passage. He is saying that in the final hours of this age, many of God’s people will no longer have a love for the truth because of *all the doctrinal error* they will have been taught for the last 150 years. Since they will not love and follow the truth, they will have no other place to go but into the arms of Satan, who is the great deceiver. It is *we* who need to be “saved” from the *power of deception* that is to be unleashed in the final hours of this age.

~ I also pointed out that the man of sin will come with ***all power*** and signs and lying wonders. The Greek term which is translated “all” (as in all power) in this passage, is the same Greek term Jesus used when He said “all” power and authority was given to Him in heaven and on earth (*Matt. 28:18-19*) It is the Greek word ***pas*** (Strong’s #3956). It has several different meanings, but one of them signifies “the highest degree,” or “the maximum” of what is being referred to. Not that Paul is saying Satan will be as powerful as Jesus. All he is saying is that Satan will be given incredible power to deceive in the last days.

~ I then listed three kinds of “truth” we must have a love for, if we don’t want to end up deceived. We must receive a love for:

(A) Jesus the Person, who is the Truth. (*John 14:6*)

(B) The doctrine Jesus taught, and transmitted to the apostles. (*Matthew 7:28; John 7:16*)

(C) The truth regarding our own condition. (*I. Corinthians 3:18; John 1:8; James 1:22 & 26*)

~ I then focused in on the third area of truth, for this is the area we who have come out of the Religious System are in danger of NOT loving. I said that because it’s easy to get blinded regarding our true spiritual condition, it is important that we keep judging ourselves. Paul said: “...if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (*I. Cor. 11:31-32* )

~ I asked the question: *How do we judge ourselves?* We are to judge ourselves by looking at our DEEDS. We must never judge ourselves by looking at our good intentions, or our religious desires, or what we wish were true. We must examine what we are actually DOING. God looks at our DEEDS. So that’s what we should be looking at too. The apostle John said:

*Little children, let no man deceive you: he that **doeth righteousness** is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

*I. John 3:7*

~ I then read quite a few scriptures from both the Old and the New Testament which show beyond a shadow of a doubt that all people (*including Christians*) will be judged according to what they have DONE, not according to what they have BELIEVED or confessed.

*One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, Oh Lord, are loving. **Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done.***

*NIV Psalms 62:11-12*

*The heart is more devious than any other thing, and is depraved; who can pierce its secrets? I, Yahweh, search the heart, test the motives, **to give each person what his conduct and his actions deserve.***

*NJB Jeremiah 17:9-10*

*If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength! Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, *But we knew nothing about this*, does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? **Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?***

*NIV Proverbs 24:10-12*

*Listen to me then, like intelligent people. Far be evil from God or injustice from Shaddai! For he pays people back for what they do, **treating each as his own conduct deserves.***

*NJB Job 34:10-11*

*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward **every man according to his works.***

*Matthew 16:27*

*Who will **render to every man according to his deeds**: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.*

*Romans 2:6-7*

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that **every one may receive the things done in his body**, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (evil).*

*II. Corinthians 5:10*

*But **he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done**: and there is no respect of persons.*

*Colossians 3:25*

*And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth **according to every man's work**, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*

*I. Peter 1:17*

*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.***

*Revelation 20:12*

If we are judged according to our works, what about “grace”. If we have genuine faith, that faith will transform us (*our deeds* and *our character*) into the image of Christ. This way we can be judged according to our works and they will not condemn us. Our works will no longer be OUR works. Neither will they be the DEVIL’S works. They will be the WORKS OF CHRIST. The life we live will not be our life, but the life of Christ.

~ I said this understanding will not only give us a proper assessment of our true spiritual condition (thus keeping us from deceiving ourselves), it will also produce in us a healthy fear of God. At this point someone in the room wrote that Christians should not fear ANYTHING. We then discussed this issue for a while, but the person ended up getting very offended and she wrote me a nasty email the next day.

So tonight I want to pick up where we left off last week, and ask a few basic questions regarding fear.

1. Are Christians supposed to fear God?
2. If so, they WHY should we fear Him?
3. What does the word "fear" mean?
4. What does man say and what does the Bible say?

Most Christian leaders will tell us that we should not fear God, but rather, that we should stand in awe of him and or give Him reverence. When talking about the term "fear" in relation to God, one Bible teacher put it this way:

"This term fear has **nothing to do with being afraid of Him**. Rather, it means **in the original language** to reverentially be aware of His divine presence and to keep Him in a place of awe and admiration. This is to be the insight that each true believer ought to have at all times."

John Coleman  
12/07/2007

This teacher says the that in the original language the Greek term has nothing to do with being afraid of God. Is this true? Well, let's take a closer look. In the Greek, there are 4 basic words that have been translated as fear in the King James.

**(A) Phobos** (*fob'-os*)...(Strong's #5401).

This word is from another Greek root word (Phebomai), which means "to be put in fear; alarm; fright. The King James translate this particular term as :

1. Be afraid
2. Be exceedingly afraid
3. Fear
4. Terror
5. To be in awe of (Revere)

**(B) Phobeo** (*fob-eh'-o*)...(Strong's #5399)

This word comes from the first term, Phobos; and it means "to frighten"; "to be alarmed"; "to be in awe of" (or revere). The King James translates it as:

1. Be afraid
2. Be sore afraid
3. Fear
4. Fear exceedingly
5. To be in awe of (Revere)

**(C) Deilia** (*di-lee-ah*)...(Strong's #1167)

This term carries the idea of timidity. (See: II. Timothy 1:7) *"For God hath not given us the **spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

**(D) Eulabeomai** (*yoo-lab-eh-om-ah-ee*)...(Strong's #2125).

This term means "to be circumspect"; "to be apprehensive", to reverence: (See: Heb 11:7) *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved with fear**, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

The first two terms (*Phobos* and *Phobeo*) are the ones that are used the most. Both of them can either mean some level of actual fear (be afraid, be extremely afraid, be terrified, etc.) , or they can mean “to stand in awe of”, or to reverence”. What determines the meaning of these two terms is the CONTEXT of the passage.

Some examples of where *Phobos* (*fob'-os*) clearly means FEAR are:

*And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and **great fear** came on all them that heard these things....Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And **great fear came upon all the church**, and upon as many as heard these things.*

*Acts 5:5; 10-11*

*Knowing therefore **the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

*II Corinthians 5:11*

*For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, **within were fears**.*

*II. Corinthians 7:5*

Some examples of where the Greek term *Phobeo* (*fob-eh'-o*) clearly means FEAR are:

*And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; **be not afraid**.*

*Matthew 14:26-27*

*And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, **he was afraid**; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*

*Matthew 14:29-30*

*For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, **be afraid**; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

*Romans 13:4*

Even though both *Phobos* and *Phobeo* can be translated reverence in certain cases, it's clear that in these verses they do not mean reverence. They mean actual fear. Now, with this understanding in mind, listen to the words of Jesus:

*And **fear** [Phobeo] **not them** which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather **fear** [Phobeo] **him** which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

*Matthew 10:28*

*And I say unto you my friends, **Be not afraid** [Phobeo] **of them** that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: **Fear** [Phobeo] **him**, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, **Fear him**.*

*Luke 12:4-5*

The CONTEXT of these passages makes two things clear:

(1) The same Greek term [*Phobeo*] which is used in the first clause (don't *fear* men), is used in the second clause (*fear* God). Anyone who tries to say that when Jesus told us not to fear man, He was talking about real fear, but when he told us to fear God, He was merely talking about reverence, is handling the Word of God deceitfully.

(2) Jesus was not talking to the unsaved. He was talking to his *disciples* and His *friends*. That means He was talking to YOU and ME. He is telling us, just as He told them, that it's possible to be "killed" by the heavenly Father and "cast into hell" if we fear men more than we fear Him.

*Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. **Be not highminded, but fear** [phobeo]: For if God spared not the natural branches, **take heed lest he also spare not thee**. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off**.*

*Romans 11:18-22*

In Romans, Paul warns *Christians* not to be high minded, but to FEAR because God is no respecter of persons. If He cut off the natural branches (Jews) because of unbelief, then He will cut off the grafted-in branches (*Gentile Christians*) if they do not "continue in his goodness". It is precisely because we can be cut off that Paul says the following:

*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation **with fear** [phobos] **and trembling**.*

*Philippians 2:12*

We are told very clearly to work out our own salvation, not just with fear, but with fear AND trembling. The Greek word that is translated "trembling" here is *tromos* (Strong's #5156), and it has only ONE meaning: "to quake with fear". So once again, the CONTEXT of the verse makes it clear that the Greek term, *phobos* is to be taken in it's obvious sense. It says fear and it means just that! Why should we have any kind of fear when it comes to our salvation?

*For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; **Every man's work** shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try **every man's work** of what sort it is. If any **man's work** abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any **man's work** shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but **he himself shall be saved**; yet so as by fire...*

*...Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man **defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy**; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

*I. Corinthians 3:9-17*

At first glance Paul seems to be double-talking. In one breath he says that what we build on the foundation of Christ will be tried by fire. Those who's works are burned will "suffer loss," but they themselves shall be saved. Then he turns around and says that those who defile themselves (the temple of God) will be destroyed.

Notice that when he talks about receiving a reward or suffering loss he is referring to what has been built on the foundation of Christ: "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest..." These works are not speaking of *how we live*, but of our *Christian service*. All our service for God can end up being worthless if we are building with wood, hay and stubble instead of with gold, silver and precious stones. As long as the Christian's *foundation* remains intact he will be saved in the end, even if he has to be saved by fire.

But then Paul goes on to describe a completely different concept. He talks about *defiling the temple* of God, which temple we are. This is not a reference to our Christian service; it's talking about how we live. If we defile the temple by living in sin or wickedness, we should fear because we are in danger of having God DESTROY us. The apostle John said: "*There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it*" (I. John 5:16). This is probably what he was talking about.

There are several things that can defile us (the temple of God) so thoroughly, God will destroy us.

- (A) One is living in a continual state of sin.
- (B) Another is returning to the world.
- (C) Another is returning to legalism.
- (D) Another is allowing the spirit of Antichrist to "take his seat" in us, and become our "god".

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God.*

*II Thessalonians 2:3-4*

Even though all four of these areas are a present danger, the one that is the *most dangerous* at this time is the last one. This is why I am constantly warning people about it. Right now, multitudes of *Christians* are allowing the spirit of Antichrist to take his seat in their lives.

*This is what happened with those who accepted the Toronto Blessing.*

*This is what happened with who those accepted the Laughing Blessing.*

*This is what is happening to those who are accepting today's so-called "revivals".*

*Christians* are opening themselves up to a powerful angel of light, which is in reality an extremely wicked and deadly religious spirit that's posing as the Spirit of God. They are letting this wicked spirit take its seat in their lives.

They are following it *as God*.

They are praying to it *as God*.

They are worshipping it *as God*.

They are receiving spiritual revelations from it.

They are receiving dreams and visions from it.

They are receiving all kinds of supernatural gifts from it.

They are receiving supernatural healings from it.

They are experiencing a changed life by it.

For all intents and purposes, it has become their god. It has completely defiled them. Thus, they **WILL BE** destroyed by God in the end.

Friends, the Devil isn't limited to working his deception **INSIDE** the Religious System. He is just as capable of deceiving those **OUTSIDE** the System. Over forty years ago, thousands and thousands of solid, Bible-believing Christians heard a call from God to "come out" and they did. They left the denominations to follow a deeper vision and walk with the Lord. However, many of them eventually went into serious doctrinal error and opened themselves up to the **VERY SAME SPIRIT** that is now overcoming the churches. Coming out of the apostate churches *will not* protect us from this powerful spirit.

In order to keep from being deceived, we need to be delivered any idea or doctrine that:

- ~ Destroys the fear of God in our lives.
- ~ Keep us from judging (examining) our ourselves (our deeds).
- ~ Says that since Jesus defeated Satan at Calvary, he is no threat to us.

Some of the doctrines or ideas we will have to reject are:

1. The doctrine of Eternal Security.
2. The doctrine of salvation by grace *alone*.
3. The doctrine of unconditional election or predestination.
4. The doctrine of limited atonement.
5. The doctrine of the absolute Sovereignty of God (ie, man has no free will)
6. The idea that the promises of God (especially spiritual protection) are unconditional.
7. The idea that we should not fear God.
8. The idea that we do not have to worry about Satan because he was defeated *for us* at Calvary.

It doesn't take a PhD to figure out that accepting any of these errors, let alone a combination of them, or (God forbid!) all of them, will produce an attitude that is devoid of any real fear of God, or any fear of falling away from the faith or being overcome by Satan. These lies are designed by Satan to produce arrogance, spiritual pride, spiritual laziness, over-confidence and a hard heart in those who follow them. And they become *especially dangerous* at the end of the age.

Can a totally sovereign God be limited by what we do?

*For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and **limited the Holy One of Israel.***

*Psalm 78:39-41*

I don't care what people say, if they think they were: (1) predestined and elected to be saved regardless of what they themselves do; or if they believe they are: (2) eternally secure based solely upon what Jesus did for them at the Cross; or if they: (3) believe in the absolute sovereignty of God, they will be *utterly incapable* of applying any of the warnings of the New Testament to themselves. They may say they believe the Scripture, but it will be impossible for them actually do so.