THE COMING OF THE ANTICHRIST

(2 Thessalonians 2:3-12)

I. PAUL'S WARNING ABOUT THE DECEPTION CONCERNING THE DAY OF THE LORD

A. The coming of the MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (2:3-5)

- 1. Paul exhorted the Thessalonian believers to not be _____; they were not in *"the Day of the Lord"* nor would they ever be. (v. 3a)
- 2. There were two tell tale signs that needed to occur before "the Day of the Lord" took place...
 - a. First there would be a wide spread ______ (Greek-apostasia) from true faith in God. (v. 3b)
 - b. Second the _____ of _____ would be revealed to the world. (v. 3c)
- 4. He would eventually ______ the newly erected Jewish temple, and he would ______ that he is God. (v. 4b)
- 5. Even though the Thessalonian church was relatively ______, Paul taught these new converts a great deal concerning ______. (v. 5)

B. The RESTRAINER of evil (2:6-8)

1. The Holy Spirit is currently restraining evil through ______ one on one, and the ______ as a whole. (v. 6)

2. At the Rapture there is a ______ of Pentecost (where the Spirit came suddenly and unexpectedly), and when the Church is removed from the world so will a major part of His divine ______ and _____. (v. 7)

* Does this mean that the Holy Spirit will not be present in the Tribulation?

3. We can be thankful that at the Battle of Armageddon the Lord Jesus will make short work of the Antichrist, he will be swiftly _____ by a _____ word. (v. 8)

C. The CHARACTER of the lawless one (2:9-12)

- 1. Antichrist will be empowered by _____, and he will perform many "signs and ______, wonders." (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:2-8)
- The coming of Antichrist will be such a complete and clever ______ of the coming of Christ that many people will be drawn in by the ______ deception. (2 Thess. 2:10; Rev. 13:4)

* According to v. 10 why will people perish?

3. When people continue to ______ Jesus Christ and the Gospel message, and they are drawn to wickedness, sometimes God gives them over to a ______ mind, and they believe the lie. (2 Thess. 2:11; Rom. 1:18-32; Isa 66:4)

* According to v. 12 why will people be condemned?

* If the Rapture were to take place today how many of your unsaved relatives, friends and coworkers would go into the Tribulational period?