

# ***The mystery of Godliness***

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This is the 4th and final of a series of studies on **2nd Thessalonians 2:** As the studies are posted on [www.thekingdomisathand.net](http://www.thekingdomisathand.net) They will be indexed, archived and may be accessed from the **teachings page**. It will be important to read part 1, 2 and 3 before starting part 4, below.

So, let's begin part 4 of our **2nd Thessalonians 2:** study.

***v7 (Peshitta text:) For the mystery of iniquity is already at work: until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way.***

***“The mystery of iniquity”*** in 2<sup>nd</sup> Thes. 2:7, above, should be compared and considered in the same light as the ***“The mystery of godliness”*** in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:16 ***or the mystery of Christ*** in Ephesians 3:4, and is further amplified by Col 1: 27; ***“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”***

*1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the **mystery of godliness:** God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory*

*Ephesians 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ.***

*Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:*

In considering the meaning of ***“the mystery”*** either of Godliness, of Christ or of Iniquity, we should see **mysteries**, by definition as; something hidden which may not readily be revealed; ***“a secret or mystery”***. For example, Jesus spoke of ***“the mystery of the Kingdom”*** and always spoke in parables and metaphor's to keep the mystery hidden (a secret), except for those ***“with eyes to see and ears to hear”***.

*Mar 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the **mystery** of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in **parables**:*

So let us see **these mysteries** in the same way and ask the Lord to reveal them to us and not just rely on the traditional teachings of men:

**The mystery of Godliness and of Christ** deals with the manifestation of God in the flesh, the work of Jesus the Christ and the gift to His believers of the Holy Spirit, in order that we might become partakers of His divine nature.

**Anti-freeze**, by definition, could be anything that would prevent freezing. By definition, then; “**Anti-Christ**” could be anything that **prevents** the perfection and manifestation of Christ in His Church.

**Perfection** and the manifestation of Christ in the Body of Christ is the goal that God has purposed for us and defined by Paul as; “**Christ in us, the hope of glory**”.

*Eph 4:12 For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect** man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Incidentally and... I think, not coincidentally, **our flesh** contains exactly six hundred and sixty six (**666**) skeletal muscles.

Scripture tells us that “**Flesh and blood** can not inherit the Kingdom of God”, because it (**the flesh**) is by scriptural definition; **Anti** or; at war with the Spirit. **The flesh** is contrary to the Spirit and unwilling to submit to Gods government, Kingdom (Kings-dominion), or rule of God. (also see Romans 7: and 8)

*1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot** inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

*“That **wicked**”* (2nd Thessalonians 2:8)

**Wicked:** [G3551](#); lawless, that is, (negatively) not subject to (the Jewish) law; (by implication a Gentile), or (positively) wicked: - without law, lawless, transgressor, unlawful, wicked.

Our wicked **flesh**, surely, needs to be submitted to be crucified with Christ, by our faith in Christ to do that very work, in us. Then, as we die daily and bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (*to conform, submit to the rule of God or come under His dominion*) there will follow;

A daily, **progressive**, resurrection unto His new life in us, until He is **fully apparent in us**.

*“Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”*

*Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect** man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

If we, our **fleshly** desires and motivations, are crucified (not literally of course) with Him, we are also to be **resurrected** with Him. **His coming or appearing in us**, His **light**, our new resurrection life, will destroy the **dark** motivations to sin or... *“that wicked”* in us. And then His **light** or **his life**, will fill us and **from the cleaned heart** will come forth the manifestations of **His righteousness** in us.

*Tit 3:5 Not **by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the **washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost**;*

*Mat 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***

*Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

**Php 2:13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**Luk 6:45** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of **the abundance of the heart** his mouth speaketh.

**Psa 37:5** Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; **and he** shall bring it to pass. **v6** **And he** shall bring forth thy righteousness **as the light**, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Verses 9a & 10 of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2: describes "**the working of Satan**" in this manner;

“...**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.”

This is "**ANTI-**" or In direct contrast to certain promises and expectations that true Christians have, which are:

“...**the workings of Christ**”, with all righteousness **in us** that live, is because **we do receive** the love of the truth, that **we** might be saved!

Yet it does not appear what we shall be. But, when He **comes** or appears or is manifest **in us**, we shall be like Him and see Him as He is.

**1Jn 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear**, (be fully manifest) we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

**1Jn 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear**, (be fully manifest) we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at **his coming**.

The real target that the church should be zeroing in on to destroy the works of the devil is **Ant**-Christ for sure and certain. That would be the desires and motivations of...**OUR FLESH** And then, for us to fully understand that it is not by **our works** that this destruction will be done, but rather by **His work in us**. It is only "**the brightness of His coming**" that will bring us to the final victory.

This whole passage in 2 Thessalonians 2: leaves no wiggle room for anything **ANTI**-Christ after the Lord shows up (2Th 2:8). This is a total victory picture of; "**the day of the Lord**" (*whatever and whenever that may be*).

*Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

*Let Him who hath an ear, hear*

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*This is the 4th and final of a series of studies on **2nd Thessalonians 2:***

Part I: ***The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees***

Part II: ***The brightness of His coming***

Part III: ***The mystery of iniquity***

Part IV: ***The mystery of Godliness***

*Both, part I, part II & part III can be accessed from the teachings archive index on the **teaching page**: [www.thinkdomisathand.net](http://www.thinkdomisathand.net)*

**Reference only:**

**2Th 2:1** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

- 2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
- 2Th 2:3 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;
- 2Th 2:4 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.
- 2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
- 2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
- 2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*,  
V7 (***Peshitta text:***) ***“For the mystery of iniquity is already at work: until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way.”***)
- 2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- 2Th 2:9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
- 2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
- 2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
- 2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
- 2Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.
- 2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,
- 2Th 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.