Victoria Fellowship Church International & Interdenominational Bible Study Worksheet – December 3, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days Topic: Overcoming the Season of Lawlessness

Main Texts: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Key verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:15 – "*Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*" (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In Paul's 2nd letter to the Thessalonians, he discusses encouragement during persecution, the return of Jesus Christ, the need to remain hopeful and faithful, and idleness among believers. Regarding the second coming of Christ, Paul exhorts church members not to be alarmed or unsettled when they hear rumors of Christ's return, regardless of how convincing they may be. He cites some signs that believers can look out for as a precursor to the Lord's return, the knowledge of which ought to quell any anxieties that we may have but should cause us to live our lives in a state of alertness and readiness. Peter echoes this sentiment in 1 Peter 4:7 NKJV, *"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers"* and in 1 Peter 1:13 NIV, *"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming."*

1.(a) What are some of the signs to look out for ahead of the second coming of Christ? (Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-10). Are we witnessing some of these signs in the world today? (Read Matthew 24:24) (b) Let participants recall some of the end time revelations or visions that have hit the airwaves. How did those revelations or visions affect you, positively or otherwise? (c) What should our response and attitude be to these revelations in the light of today's passage and other scriptures?

When the "son of perdition" is revealed, Paul cautions that just like his father the devil, he will come with all manner of powers, signs and lying wonders, with the aim to deceive men and lead them to destruction. So powerful shall be the influence of this Antichrist be that many will fall for his lies. *"It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation" (Revelation 13:7 NKJV).* For those who do not already know Christ or who have not believed in Him, God Himself will cause them to come under a strong delusion so that they are completely deceived by the antichrist because they "*did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12 NKJV).* It is therefore of utmost urgency that those who are not yet saved come to accept the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ now, so that when that time comes, they can overcome the season of lawlessness.

2.(a) How would you interpret 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12? (b) What warnings does 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 offer? How does that relate to the topic? (c) What is the escape offered by these verses and how can such remedy be implemented?

While it may be scary to think about the end times and the uncertainty of the days to come, one thing we can be assured of is that Jesus has already won the victory over Satan! (Colossians 2:15) and when He comes again in glory, He will destroy the enemy completely. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 says, *"the Lord will consume [him] with the breath of His mouth and destroy [him] with the brightness of His coming*". What believers must do is remain deeply rooted in Christ and hold fast to His teachings. If we do this, we can be assured of overcoming the lawlessness of the end times and sharing in Christ's glory (2 Thessalonians 2:9-14).

3.(a) Let participants identify the admonitions given in 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17? (b) What do these look like in practical terms? (c) Which of these do we think is needed more? Why?

Prayer: Father, we thank You that Your thoughts towards us are for good and to bring us to an expected end. Grant us the grace to hold fast to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that we can stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen.