

# STUDY NOTES

## A SERMON *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “Man of Lawlessness” on 9/17/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

*Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.*

## SCRIPTURE: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

## THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

- *Why do you think Paul starts this section about the end with a calming disclaimer?*

**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.** In 1 Thessalonians, they were worried that Jesus wouldn't come back. Paul says the day of the Lord will come like a thief (and thieves don't arrive on your schedule). But by the time 2 Thes. was written, the Thessalonians were worried that the Day of the Lord had already come and that they missed it! **They overcorrected.** Yes, the Day of the Lord will be a real event and Paul says that before the Lord comes there will be a lawless one—however this person/force won't be so obvious that people will know it.

- *How have you seen people overcorrect regarding end times beliefs?*

## WHAT IS LAWLESSNESS?

The word “lawlessness” means “without law”—meaning, “who is to say what is right or wrong?”. Lawlessness denies that there is an eternal or absolute law. It says my feelings are most important. Historians tell us that until the last 50-60 years the prevailing understanding in culture was that truth is out there to be discovered. There is an eternal law that sets moral law. But that has changed now!

**Truth isn't created. Truth IS!**

- *What do you see our culture say about truth?*
- *How does Christian belief challenge what culture says about truth?*
- *How does the power of lawlessness (“there is no truth/law”) actually exhausting to keep up with?*

## BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TEMPLE?

Paul says that this man of lawlessness will set himself in God's temple before the Day of the Lord will come. The center of the temple is where Israel found the presence of God and where some sort of life was laid down for the sins of the people.

***The mystery in the center of the temple is MY LIFE for yours.***  
**- Tom Howard**

But where is the temple today? In 1 Corinthians, Paul says that our bodies are a temple where the Holy Spirit indwells. Jesus modeled this by laying down his own life for us. With our hearts being the center of our bodily temples, we will struggle with saying “my life for yours” instead of saying “your life for mine” (which is the spirit of lawlessness).

- *Why is it important to recognize the spirit of lawlessness in our own hearts rather than just trying to identify it elsewhere?*
- *What areas of your own life do you need to start saying “my life for yours” rather than saying “your life for mine”?*
- *Pray for strength from the Holy Spirit to recognize when the spirit of lawlessness is at work in our lives.*