

## **Is It Worth It?**

- How of often do you find yourself asking that question?
- In all sorts of different scenarios!
  - was coming out to church this morning or evening worth it? (hmmm!)
  - is it worth being involved in the things we do in or for church outside of Sundays: GB, International Cafe, occasional bible study groups, Prayer Meeting... is the hassle and effort worth benefit?
  - is it worth putting in effort to speak to people - those you don't know a few seats away, those you do know but don't get on with well, those who it is an effort to speak to?
  - is it worth being good? Telling the truth, working hard, putting yourself out for others?
- **Is life - and the Christian life in particular - worth it?**
- Perhaps you don't often stop and wonder, but take a moment to stop and think and quite often that question will arise:
  - think about church decline over the past 40 years
  - think about the decline in societies standards in so many areas over the same period
- It is easy to paint a gloomy picture!
- **Is it worth it?**
  
- That is essentially the question Thessalonians were asking:
  - is it worth living as a Christian?
  - confusion over return of Christ - thought Jesus' return was meant to be with power and splendour, but if he had come, then nothing much had changed, evil was still rampant... **why not just join in??**

## **Christ's Power is Greater**

- **Paul's answer is simple:**
  - **despite appearances, Christ's power is greater....**
  - **....and that makes living for him worthwhile!**
- For the victory will be his, in the end.

### **Just now... Appearances can be deceptive**

- There is a battle, but it is hidden
  - and the climax will come when things are **revealed**
  - look at words of secrecy, deceit and delusion - and contrast with words of revelation, of public display...
  - what is going on now is mostly a **secret, hidden, guerilla** war against God (v.4)
- *(And as for identity of **man of lawlessness**, he's not been revealed!)*
  
- **Story: boy kidnapped and returned**
  
- Evil - boy kidnapped.
  - God triumphs - **is it too hard for the Creator of the Universe to bring one small boy back to his home? NO!**
- The power of Christ may not have been evident for most of the duration of that story, but that did not make it any the less potent
  - just because you can't see it, doesn't make it unreal
  
- World is a mess - Christ's power is not evident.

### **But then... Reality will be revealed**

- See what happens the instant the Lord Jesus comes?
  - things are **revealed**, they are clear and unmistakeable
  - the evil one, source of all the destruction and hatred the world has ever known, is swept away by his breath! (v.8)
  - puff - and he's gone!

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 The man of lawlessness Fintry, 16/1/2011, pm

- The difference in power is so great its almost incomprehensible!
  - (All Black vs just about anyone at the moment!!)

### Result:

- **Stand firm** - don't be shaken from what you know to be right (because it is in the **Scriptures**), and diverted off elsewhere
  - **know that it is worth it!**
  - for God will take us home!
- **His power in Christ is far more than able to do so!**