

THE WEEK OF
May 25th, 2009



Series 5, Number 16
The Abomination of Desolation
I John 2:18-23
Charts 77 & 78 in Zondervan Charts of Bible Prophecy

"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour...
Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son."

I John 2:18,22

If you were able to view the video study for this week, then you know that Pastor Nelson covered a pivotal event at the center point of the Tribulation: The Abomination of Desolation. The prophet Daniel spoke of this, Jesus mentions it and when we study eschatology, we recognize this as the turning point and transition between tribulation and the GREAT TRIBULATION. So what happens? Simply this: A man, whom the Bible reveals as the Antichrist, defiles the temple in Jerusalem by setting up an image of himself and demanding worship. This is the culmination of a series of "false" or "counterfeit" manifestations of Satan. As Satan is the deceiver, he has always been about the business of providing a false alternative to the reality of God. We know that God exists as a trinity. Well Satan, in the end, will create something of trinity himself. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. During the Tribulation we find the characters of the Antichrist and the false prophet with Satan himself acting as the false "Father". This is nothing new, Satan has always deceived through false alternatives to God's perfect design. The apostle John speaks about this in 1 John 2:18-22. It's the idea of "antichrists", with a lower case a; and he defines it as anyone that denies the deity of Christ and the nature of God. It is also any *thing* that denies or takes the place of Christ in a person's life. This is idolatry and it's an insidious and subtle thing. All of us have things in our lives that compete for the throne where only Christ should reside. Seeing as how our bodies are now the temple of God, think of that place as our "Holy of Holies". Whenever we allow these antichrists to take the place of honor in our lives we, in a real sense, are desolating the temple. So, in order to keep our temple purified we must be constantly resisting the temptation to compromise the pure pursuit of Christ for any other pursuit that is by nature *anti*-Christ.

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example*:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

**This week consider the contrasts between Christ and the Antichrist:
(and how these contrasts apply to us regarding the "spirit" of antichrist)**

Mon: Image of God vs. Image of Satan: John 14:9 vs. Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3

Tue: Jesus is Truth vs. Antichrist is a liar: John 14:6 vs. 2 Thess 2:9-10

Wed: Cleansed the temple vs. Desecrates the temple: John 2:14-17 vs. 2 Thess 2:4

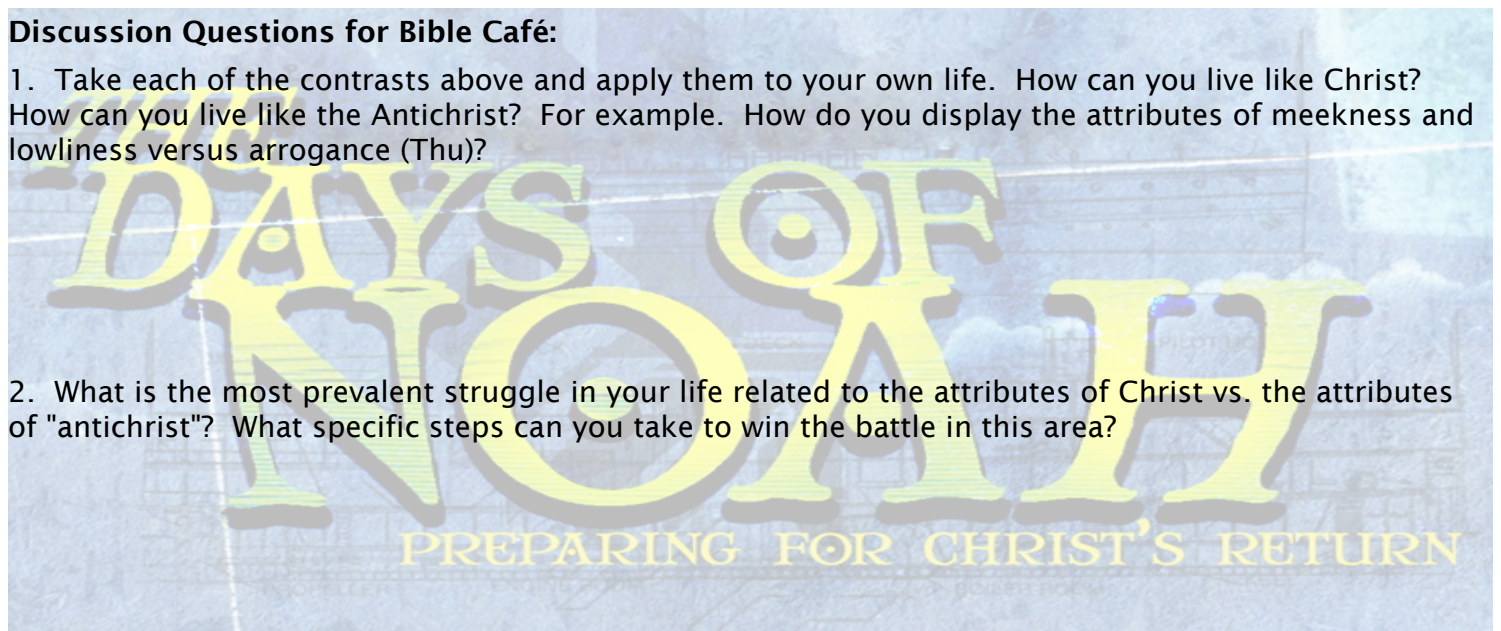
Thu: Meek and lowly vs. Arrogant and self-willed: Matt 11:29 vs. Daniel 7:25

Fri: Speaks words of life vs. Speaks words of death: John 6:23 vs. Rev 13:15

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. Take each of the contrasts above and apply them to your own life. How can you live like Christ? How can you live like the Antichrist? For example. How do you display the attributes of meekness and lowliness versus arrogance (Thu)?

2. What is the most prevalent struggle in your life related to the attributes of Christ vs. the attributes of "antichrist"? What specific steps can you take to win the battle in this area?



Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):