

# **The Church and The Blessed Hope**

## **“Explanation for Last Days Deception” (A)**

### **II Thessalonians 2:1-12**

**Introduction** - Paul wrote II Thessalonians to encourage the suffering and to enlighten the confused.

1. **The Falling Away**, vs. 3.

2. **The Rapture**, vs. 1 & vv. 6-7.

**1. The Renaissance** - The term Renaissance means “new birth” and describes the intellectual awakening that took place in Europe after the Middle Ages. The “enlightened” philosophy of the secular humanist laid the foundation for religious liberalism with its denial of supernaturalism.

**2. The Enlightenment** - John Locke(1632-1704) introduced subjectivism, that knowledge comes from experience. George Berkeley(1685-1753) and David Hume(1711-1776).

**3. Idealism** - The philosophy that reality does not lie in the physical realm, but in the mind.

- Immanuel Kant(1724-1804), the founder of religious liberalism. No supernatural Jesus, merely a good teacher. Christianity is a system of ethics rather than a revelation from God.

- Georg W.F. Hegel(1770-1831)

**4. Liberal Theology** - German Protestant theologians, 1830s and on.

**5. Neo-Orthodox Theology**

- Kierkegaard(1813-1855)

- Karl Barth(1886-1969)

- Paul Tillich(1886-1965)

**6. Neo-Liberalism** - Henry Emerson Fosdick(1878-1969)

**7. The Emergent Church Movement**- Today!

*“One of the most dangerous movements inside the Christian church,” Norman Geisler.*

- Rob Bell - Author of “Velvet Elvis.”

- Brian McLaren - Author of “The Church on the Other Side.” and “A Generous Orthodoxy.”

- Doug Pagitt & Tony Jones - “An Emergent Manifesto of Hope.”

- It’s “Post-Modernism.” World view in the church!!

1. Death of God - Nietzsche

2. Death of Objective truth, *Relativism*.

3. Death of Exclusive “truth,” *Pluralism*.