Christian Questions
TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

Dear Darryl,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You wanted to know why 2 Thessalonians 1:8 can be applied to the Millennial age when the verse implies that this present age is the only time to accept Christ and that at Christ's coming those who know not God will be destroyed. You wondered how there can be any who know not God during the Millennial age if the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as water covers the sea and all will know Him from the least to the greatest.

In 2 Thessalonians the Apostle Paul encourages the brethren at Thessalonica to remain steadfast while he also corrects a misunderstanding concerning our Lord's return. In verses 4 and 5 of chapter one, Paul commends the brethren for their perseverance in faith in all the persecutions and trials they had to endure. Because of their faithfulness he tells them that they will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God for which they are suffering. [The kingdom of God for which they were suffering is the heavenly kingdom.] Paul then shifts focus away from the Gospel age to the Millennial age in verses 6 and 7. Here he gives these brethren further encouragement when he says that God will pay back trouble to those who trouble you (verse 6) and give relief to you who are troubled (verse 7). Paul then continues in verse 7 to tell them when these events would take place. He says, "This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels." We believe that this revealment is figurative language for the third and final phase of our Lord's second presence, which begins with the great time of trouble. It will be during this final phase that judgments during the entire millennial age will be made on systems and individuals. "He will punish those who do not 'know' God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." (verse 8)

In answer to the second part of your question, yes, all will have knowledge of God, but not all will "know" him, meaning they will not appreciate God's character and plans and choose not to obey, but continue on in their own willful sinning. God's righteousness will not be written in their hearts. Paul tells us in verse 9 what will happen to them. "They [willful sinners] will be punished with everlasting destruction [second death] and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power." Conversely, Paul tells the brethren how wonderful this Millennial age will be for them because they believed and desired fellowship with God. "On the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people [the Church—the 144,000] and to be marveled at among all those who

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have believed. This includes you because you believed our testimony to you." (verse 10)

After explaining what will happen during the Millennial age, Paul directs the brethren's thoughts back again to the present Gospel age in verse 11 when he says, "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you. That our God may count you worthy of his calling [the high heavenly calling to be the Bride of Christ] and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith." Paul desires that they will remain faithful during this age so that they will be part of the Church class in the Millennial age. He concludes in verse 12, "We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

We hope we have answered your questions and shown how both the Gospel age and the Millennial age are described and interact in 2 Thessalonians 1:4-12. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

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