

Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 8 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
(week of November 6)
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Verse to remember - 2 Thessalonians 2:14

“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught.”

Opening prayer

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 aloud.

1. 2 Thessalonians 2 seems to have been Paul’s primary reason for writing this second letter. What seems to be going on in this church such that Paul feels the need to write it?

2. Paul tells the Thessalonians not to be “shaken in mind or alarmed” (2:2) about things they see or hear. Where do you perceive that this warning is needed for believers today?

3. In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, Paul had said that the day of the Lord would come like a thief in the night. How can that be reconciled with what he says in 2:3-12?

4. The lawless one “opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship... declaring himself to be God” (2:4). This is a pattern among earthly rulers, for example, the king of Tyre and the king of Babylon (read Ezekiel 28:2 and Isaiah 14:13-14). Where do you see this pattern at work today?

5. There is no definitive answer to the identity of the “restraining” force. Some suggestions have been the Roman government in Paul’s day; government (or law and order) in general; Paul’s preaching of the gospel; the Holy Spirit; and angelic powers. Where do you see lawlessness at work today, and how do you see it being restrained?

6. What can the breath of the Lord accomplish?

Psalm 33:6

Isaiah 30:33

Isaiah 40:7

2 Thessalonians 2:8

7. What happens to those who refuse to love the truth (2:9-12)? What truth do you think this is?

8. The purpose of this chapter is to comfort the Thessalonians (as evidenced by 2:13-17). What do you find comforting about it?

9. What is Paul's instruction for how to avoid succumbing to deception (2:15)? How do you understand this? How do you do it?

10. Compare the prayer in 2:16-17 with the prayer in 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13. What do you notice? What is the significance of the addressee(s) of the prayers? (Hint: remember that this was written only 20 years or so after Jesus rose from the dead.)

11. Questions for personal application.

What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

Closing prayer