

INTRO**1. Review 1 Thessalonians**

2. The main object of this chapter is to correct an erroneous misconceptions
 - a. on the minds of the Thessalonians regarding
 - i. the second coming of Jesus,
 1. either by his own former letter,
 2. or by one forged in his name.
 - b. They had the impression that that event was eminent.
 - c. This belief had produced an unhealthy concern; ver. 2.
 - d. It became necessary to clarify the subject,
 - i. in order to free their minds from alarm;

Intro to: 2 Thessalonians chapter 2

3. the events which would take place
 - a. between the date of his Epistle
 - b. and the Lord's coming,

the apostle gives 3 things that will take place:

1. A great **apostasy**.
2. The **removal of that power** which hindered the coming of the lawless one.
3. The manifestation of the lawless one, and his reign

2 Thessalonians 2:1–17

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Don't you remember that when I was with you, I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."

2 Thessalonians 2:1–3

"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way"

4. Apparently, there were false reports circulating about Jesus had already made his 2nd appearance

- a. Even Jesus warned about false prophets

Matthew 24:23–27

"At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.

"So, if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

2 Timothy 2:16–18

"Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some."

5. **Vs. 3** *"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction."*

- a. Rebellion occurs
 - b. Man of lawlessness is revealed

6. Who is this man of lawlessness?

- a. **vs.7** *"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work"*

- i. The state of lawlessness is already working
 - ii. Present in the time of this letter (51-52 A.D.)
 - iii. Setting the stage
 - iv. But the man of lawlessness has yet to come (future)

7. He will be recognized by these things:

vs. 4 *“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”*

- a. *He will oppose God*
- b. *He will exalt himself over God*
- c. *He will set himself up in God’s temple*
- d. *Proclaim himself to be God.*

8. So, what is **the timing** of Paul prophesying about?

- a. Paul writing about someone who has already come
- b. In 40 AD, the Roman Emperor Caligula (Gaius)
 - i. Ordered a statue of himself to be placed in the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem
 - ii. He **demand**ed the people to “*worship him as a god*”
 - iii. “*he sets himself up in God’s temple*”
- c. Temple destroyed in 70 AD
 - i. by Titus,
 - ii. son of the Roman Emperor Vespasian
- d. Had to come before 70 AD

9. Most Bible Commentators WRONG

- a. Referring to the Anti-Christ
- b. Say its futuristic
- c. Signs of it are “happening **NOW**”

1 John 2:18

“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.”

1 John 4:2–3

“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”

10. 81 AD, Domitian became Emperor of Rome

- i. Domitian officially gave himself the title of *Dominus et Deus* ("Lord and God")

11. Paul talking about both the present and the near future

- a. Referring to what the people in Thessalonica would understand

12. The working of lawlessness began through Caligula

- a. And eventually peaks through Domitian
- b. Domitian was born in 51 AD (the writing of 1 Thessalonians)

13. **How can we identify the lawless one?**

vs. 9-10 *“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.”*

- a. Satan historically has worked through people

John 13:27

“As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.”

Mark 5:9-13

“Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘My name is Legion,’ he replied, ‘for we are many.’ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, ‘Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.’ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs.

Luke 11:24-26

“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”

2 Corinthians 11:13–15

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

- 14. **vs 10** *“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”*

- a. ***The Devil (Satan) is a liar***

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1 John 2:4

“Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

Romans 1:18-19

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

2 Tim3:6-9

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **without** love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **treacherous**, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

*“They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, **always** learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.”*

2 Tim 4:3-4

*“**For** the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. “*

15. **vs.11** *“For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion*

- a. strong delusion—**Greek**, “the powerful working of error,”
- b. God does not to hinder men to fall into a particular sin or delusion
 - i. If that is what their hearts are drawn to.
- c. God judicially “hardens of heart”
 - i. on those who have rejected the truth,

Romans 1:21-32

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

***24** Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

***26** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

***28** Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*

John 12:37-40

“Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence; they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

*“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

For this reason, they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

*“He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.”*

16. God withdrew all restraint

- a. and allowed them to suffer
- b. the consequences
 - i. to show
 - ii. that they did not love the truth.
- c. God often puts people in circumstances
 - i. to expose their own nature,

17. **vs. 11** *“so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”*

- a. *“That they will believe the lie”*
 - i. This does **not** mean
 - 1. that God wished them
 - 2. to believe a lie;
 - ii. **nor** that He would **not** have preferred
 - 1. that they believe the truth;
 - iii. **nor** that He exerted any direct agency
 - 1. to believe a lie
 - 2. that they already believed in.
 - iv. It means merely that
 - 1. He washed his hands of them,
 - a. because they did **not** love the truth,
 - 2. But enjoyed the pleasures of their sin
 - 3. They were **not** willing to give up those pleasures
 - 4. Living for self was more important to them
 - a. than living for God
 - 5. No room for God in their lifestyle
- b. Many **LIES** today in Christianity
 - i. transubstantiation

- ii. Purgatory
- iii. infallibility of the church
- iv. Don't have to go to church to be a Christian
- v. mediation of saints - Praying to saints to mediate your prayer to Jesus
- vi. Once saved always saved
- vii. Faith alone will save you
- viii. Pray a prayer asking for forgiveness and you are saved

18. **vs. 13-14** *"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

a. Many times Paul expressed his thankfulness to Thessalonians

- i. 1 Thess 1:2
- ii. 1 Thess 2:13
- iii. 1 Thess 3:9
- iv. 2 Thess 1:3
- v. 2 Thess 2:13

b. He reminds them that **they were chosen by God**

- i. What an honor
- ii. To be chosen

c. They were CALLED through the preaching of the gospel

- i. **Not** some social or political association
- ii. **Not** converted because they liked a particular church
- iii. A charismatic preacher
- iv. CONVERTED BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL

19. **vs. 15** *"So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter."*

a. in contrast to being shaken, **vs 2**

b. Common charge to all God's people

- i. Exodus 14:13
- ii. 2 Chronicles 20:17
- iii. Job 11:15
- iv. Ps 20:8
- v. Ps 30:7
- vi. Ps 33:11
- vii. Ps 40:2

- viii. Ps 93:5
- ix. Ps 119:89
- x. Prov 10:25
- xi. Prov 12:7
- xii. Is 7:9
- xiii. Eze 13:5
- xiv. Matt 10:22
- xv. Matt 24:13
- xvi. Mark 13:13
- xvii. Luke 21:19
- xviii. 1 Cor 10:12
- xix. 1 Cor 15:58
- xx. 1 Cor 16:13
- xxi. 2 Cor 1:24
- xxii. Gal 5:1
- xxiii. Eph 6:14
- xxiv. Phil 1:27
- xxv. Phil 4:1
- xxvi. Col 4:12
- xxvii. 1 Thess 3:8
- xxviii. 2 Thess 2:13
- xxix. 2 Thess 2:15
- xxx. 2 Tim 2:19
- xxxi. James 5:8
- xxxii. 1 Peter 5:9

c. Easy to stand firm when we are **not**

- i. Challenged
- ii. Persecuted
- iii. Depressed
- iv. Isolated

d. But when these things hit us, **we can easily waiver**

e. Hold fast to what is tested to be reliable

i. **2 Peter 1:18-21**

"We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as

something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

ii. **Gal. 1:11-12**

"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

20. Proof that Paul had written the Thessalonians a previous letter

- a. Referring to
 - i. the Oral Teaching/Preaching
 - ii. he gave them
 - iii. when he was with them.

21. **vs. 16-17** *"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."*

- a. The first striking thing about this prayer is
 - i. recognition of the divinity of Jesus Christ
- b. **Secondly, note the** words 'loved' and 'given,'
 - i. Love always found voice in giving.
 - ii. the comforted heart will be a stable heart.
- c. The comforted and stable heart
 - i. will be a fruitful heart.
 - ii. *'In every good deed and word.'*

22. We do not know all the special circumstances

- a. under which these then were,
- b. but there are many allusions,
- c. In both the first and second epistles,
 - i. which seem to indicate
 - ii. that they specially needed
 - iii. the gift of consolation.

23. They were a young Church,

- a. just delivered from paganism.
- b. Like lambs in the midst of wolves,
 - i. they stood amongst bitter enemies,

- c. their teacher had left them alone,
- d. and their raw convictions needed to be
 - i. consolidated
 - ii. and matured
 - iii. in the face of much opposition.

24. No wonder then that over and over again,

- a. in both letters,
- b. we have references to
 - i. the persecutions
 - ii. and tribulations
 - iii. which they endured.
- c. But whatever may have been their specific circumstances,
 - i. the prayer
 - ii. which puts special emphasis on comfort
 - iii. is as much needed