

2 THESSALONIANS

2:1-17 | STUDY GUIDE

More Rumors

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1, "Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come." (ESV)

- Paul wasn't the only one sending the church of Thessalonica letters.
 - Lies, fraudulent letters, and false teachings were spreading confusion.
- The church was being told they had missed the rapture—that they hadn't been counted or raptured.
 - Additionally, misunderstanding as to what Paul had taught

2 THESSALONIANS 2:5, "Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?" (ESV)

- In his absence, had become confused by these rumors.
 - Paul is reminding them of what he said when he visited them in person— in this way, even if they doubted the authenticity of his letter, he's telling them to remember the words he spoke while he was with them and physically present.
 - Lies and confusion continue to dominate chapter 2 and verses 6-10 deal almost exclusively with deception.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:11, "Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false..." (ESV)

- This verse can be difficult to decipher
 - How can TRUTH send a LIE?

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- Paul is referring to an end-time messenger who is basically the embodiment of what they idolize.
 - It's not just any lie, but "the lie" of their own design.
- But we also know that God allows freedom of choice, which means that sometimes we freely choose what is wrong.
 - "So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels." (Psalm 81:12)
 - "But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: "Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?" (Acts 7:42; Stephen's speech, quoting Amos 5:25-27)

2 THESSALONIANS 2:15, "So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter."

- Hold onto the truth
 - "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (John 10:29, ESV)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Fant, Clyde E, and Mitchell G Reddish, A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey, Jung Unchan, A Tale of Two Churches