

2 Thessalonians

Lesson 9: 2 Thessalonians 2

Throughout history, many evil men have risen to power. In modern history, we think of men like Joseph Stalin and Adolph Hitler. Although these evil men have died, we know that there will be a leader in the future who is even worse. Paul tells us this man is called “the man of lawlessness.” This man must come to power before the Day of the Lord comes. The Thessalonians had lost hope because they were being lied to by false teachers regarding the Day of the Lord. Therefore, Paul had to correct these errors in his letter. Let’s dive in and see what encouragement and comfort Paul gives to a hopeless and discouraged church as he teaches them the truth.

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4**

1. In verse 1, when Paul says, “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together with Him,” what is he referring to?
2. In verse 2, what is Paul’s request? What two words does he use to describe the Thessalonians at this point?
3. What three ways were the Thessalonians potentially being led astray by false teaching?

Application: What avenues does Satan use today to bring false teaching into churches? How can you protect Faith Bible Church from being exposed to false teaching?

4. At the end of verse 2, what was the major concern of the Thessalonians?
5. In verse 3, what events must happen before the Day of the Lord comes?

Application: In verse 3, the word “apostasy” in Greek (apostasia) means “falling away, revolt, abandonment, or rebellion.” In what ways do you need to guard against falling away from the faith? What practical safeguards do you need to help you stand firm in the faith?

6. According to verse 4, what will “the man of lawlessness” (the antichrist) do?

7. Comparing the beginning of verse 3 and verse 5, why would Paul be concerned about the deception that has come into the church?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6–7**

8. According to verse 6, why can’t “the man of lawlessness” be revealed at this time?

9. In verses 6 and 7, the “restrainer” is described as an indefinite “what” and a masculine pronoun “he.” When will “the man of lawlessness” be revealed?

Application: The doctrine of God’s sovereignty is very applicable to every Christian. In what ways does this doctrine bring hope, peace, and rest to your life?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8–12**

10. According to verse 8, what will be the outcome of “the man of lawlessness?” When will this happen? (Hint: Read Revelation 19:15–21)

11. In verses 9 and 10, what things will accompany the antichrist when he rules?

12. At the end of verse 10, what does Paul tell us is the reason for those who perish?

13. Read Matthew 24:21–24. What does Jesus tell us the false Christs and false prophets will do during this time?

14. According to verses 11 and 12, who sends the deluding influence?

Application: Many people struggle with the truth presented in verses 11 and 12. Do you have struggles with this truth? In what ways can this truth strengthen your relationship with Christ and shape your view of the world?

➤ **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17**

15. Even though the Thessalonians had been tempted to be led astray, what comfort does Paul give to them in verse 13?

16. When did God choose the Thessalonians for salvation?

17. According to verse 14, what is the end goal for every believer?

18. In verse 15, what two things does Paul urge the Thessalonians to do?

Application: What are ways people are being led astray from “traditions” which “were taught”? How can we encourage one another to “stand firm and hold” on to the traditions?

19. In verses 16, what three things has Jesus Christ and God our Father done for us?

20. In verse 17, what is the prayer offered for the Thessalonians?

Application: As you study prophecy in Scripture, describe the comfort and hope it gives you.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in chapter 2? Why?