

# **Living in the Light of His Return**

## *A Study in First & Second Thessalonians*

### **LESSON SEVEN**

As we move into chapter two of this second letter to the Thessalonians, it appears that Paul is answering questions that the church had after receiving his first letter. These questions were probably brought back to Paul from Timothy. These questions concerned things that Paul had already talked to them about when he was with them, and what he wrote to them in his first letter. He begins this chapter with details concerning Christ's second coming.

Prayerfully read through 2 Thessalonians, chapter two.

- 1) Looking at **verses 1 & 2**, Paul asks them “**not to be shaken in mind or troubled**” in **verse 2**. What was it that had them “shaken” that Paul states at the end of the verse?

The Thessalonian church was afraid that they were presently in the great tribulation known as “the Day of the Lord” or “the Day of Christ.” This is a strong indication that Paul had taught them that there would be a **pre-tribulation rapture**. Their great fear about this was that they had missed the rapture of the church. **David Guzik** states, “**It is important to notice that the Thessalonians would be **shaken or troubled** by the thought of being in the Great Tribulation only if they had been taught by Paul that they would *escape* that period through the rapture. Otherwise they would, in a sense, *welcome* the Great Tribulation as a necessary prelude to the Second Coming. But Paul had clearly taught them that they would escape God's judgment on this earth during the period known as the *day of the Lord* or the **day of Christ**.”**

- 2) Still looking at **verse 2**, Paul lists **3 ways** that their faith was being shaken. What 3 ways does he mention that had shaken them up and troubled them?

Most scholars agree that “**by spirit**” indicates “**prophecy**” since, according to **Vincent’s Word Studies**, the definition of the word used here can include “**prophetic utterances of individuals in Christian assemblies, claiming the authority of divine revelations.**” “**By word**” indicates “**oral reports**” in conversations that had traveled through the church, and “**by letter**” indicates that they had received a letter, “supposedly” from Paul, that had stated they were now in the Day of the Lord.

- 3) Look up **2 Thessalonians 3:17**. How does Paul assure them in this verse that this letter they were now holding in their hands was one that they could truly trust was written by him and came from him?
  
- 4) Looking at **verse 3** in Chapter two, what **two things** does Paul tell them must happen first before the **Day of Christ** comes?
  
- 5) What description does Paul give to Timothy concerning the “falling away” found in **1 Timothy 4:1 & 2**?
  
- 6) Paul repeats this warning to Timothy in **2 Timothy 4:3 & 4**. Record those verses below.
  
- 7) Along with a great “falling away” from the truth of God before the “Day of Christ” comes, Paul has stated that “the man of sin, the son of perdition” will be revealed. According to **2 Thessalonians 2:4**, what does this son of perdition do?

- 8) Scripture has given us some clear descriptions of this man. Look up the following verses and record them below.

**Daniel 8:23 -**

**Daniel 11:36 & 37 -**

**Revelation 13:1 & 2 -**

**Revelation 13:5 & 6 -**

- 9) Paul reminds the Thessalonians in verse 5 of our chapter that he had spoken to them about all these things when he was with them. What reminder does he give to them in **2 Thessalonians 2:6 & 7**? Write these verses down below.

- 10) Although we see the evidence that the “**mystery of lawlessness**” is already at work throughout the ages, as it was from the beginning, as it was in Paul’s time, and as it is in our time, Paul clearly states that Satan, and the man of perdition that he will use to accomplish his agenda, are “**being restrained**” until the time when “He,” the Holy Spirit “steps aside” and restrains them no longer. Most scholars agree that it is the Holy Spirit working through the church that is restraining the anti-Christ’s full revelation. When the church is raptured out of the earth, there will be no more restraints. What does Paul say about “the lawless one” and the end of his agenda in **verse 8**?

- 11) What does Paul say about the coming of the lawless one in **verse 9**? And who is behind his agenda?
- 12) Looking at the description Paul gave in verse 9 of all the works this man of lawlessness will do, what does he tell us in **verse 10** that those works will accomplish?
- 13) What does Paul say in **verse 11** that God's response will be?

Pastor David Guzik states: **"That they should believe the lie: Specifically, God sends them *the* lie. This isn't just *any* lie, but *the* lie, the lie that has enthralled the human race since Adam. This is *the* lie that God is not God, and that we are or can be gods."**

- 14) Looking back at **Verse 10** and at **verse 12**, **who** does God say he will send this strong delusion to?
- 15) **Romans, chapter one** has much to say about God's righteous judgment on sinful man. Read through the chapter and record the following verses below.

**Romans 1:18 & 19 -**

**Romans 1:20 -**

**Romans 1:21 -**

**Romans 1:22 -**

**Romans 1:25 -**

**Romans 1:28 -**

**Romans 1:32 –**

We are now living in what is often referred to as “**the age of grace.**” But once the church is raptured and is no longer present to “restrain” Satan’s agenda, and God’s impending wrath, it will come with a vengeance unlike anything we can imagine.

- 16)** In light of all these realities that Paul has explained to them, he thanks God and gives encouragement to their hearts in **2 Thessalonians 2:13 & 14.** Looking at these verses, list what Paul tells them he is thankful for.

**F. B. Meyer** comments on **verse 13:** “**From the beginning! Who shall compute the contents of the vast unknown abyss, which is comprehended in that phrase? The beginning of creation was preceded by the anticipation of Redemption, and the love of God to all who were one with Christ.**”

It really is mind-boggling to think about. Because God lives **outside of time**, and we are **bound by time**, it is impossible for us to fully comprehend these truths. It’s as unfathomable to us as it is to explain to the baby in the womb what life is like outside of it.

Still looking at the end of **verse 13**, Paul mentions the **two things** necessary for our **sanctification**: The **working of God’s Spirit** and our **belief in the truth**. They both work together to produce that work of sanctification, setting us apart for God’s use.

- 17) We understand that the word **sanctification** means to be **set apart from the world, and to be set apart for God**. Look up the following Scriptures that speak of the work of sanctification that the Lord began in us at the moment we first came to Christ for salvation.

**1 Corinthians 6:9 – 11 -**

**2 Timothy 2:21 -**

**1 Peter 1:2 -**

- 18) Paul reminds the Thessalonian church in **verse 14** of our chapter that this **calling** to receive **God's gift of salvation** came through the **Gospel message**. What does **1 Corinthians 1:23 & 24** tell us about this Gospel message?

- 19) Looking again at **2 Thessalonians 2:14**, what does Paul say our believing in and embracing the Gospel message **obtains** for us in the last part of that verse?

- 20) What does the Apostle John say about this in **1 John 3:2 & 3**?

- 21) In **2 Thessalonians 2:15** Paul tells the Thessalonians they are to **stand fast**. What does Paul tell them in this verse that they are to "stand fast" in?

- 22) Paul was certainly not speaking of the traditions of man, or the traditions of the Pharisaical Jews, but in the **Apostolic traditions** they had been taught by Paul's ministry and the ministry of the other Apostles. The word could be translated the "**teachings**" they had received; teachings that were God-inspired and recorded for us in the New Testament. To "**stand fast**" can also be translated as to "**hold fast**" or to "**stand firm.**" What reasons do the following Scriptures give to us for **standing fast** in the Lord and His teachings?

**1 Corinthians 15:58 -**

**Hebrews 4:14 -**

**Hebrews 10:23 –**

- 23) In in **2 Thessalonians 2:16 & 17**, Paul ends this chapter with a prayer for the church of Thessalonica. Write out Paul's prayer for the church below.

- 24) This beautiful prayer reminds us that it is Jesus Christ, Himself, and God the Father who are the **source of consolation and hope**, by the gift of **God's grace**. All consolation we receive outside of Him is a "**temporary consolation.**" But what does Paul call God's consolation in **verse 16**? What **kind** of consolation is it?

- 25) Record **Hebrews 6:18 – 20** below that describes the "good hope" we have through God's grace.

- 26) Paul ends his prayer, asking God to both **comfort their hearts** and to **establish them “in every good word and work.”** Look up the word **“establish”** and record your findings.
- 27) Take a moment to lift up this prayer for someone the Lord places on your heart. Then, lift this prayer up for yourself. If you desire, record your prayer below.
- 28) How has this second chapter of 2 Thessalonians spoken to your heart? What are the things you are taking away from this lesson?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2024