

Text Outline 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

I. Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him,

A. we ask you, brothers and sisters,

1. ² not to become

a) *easily*

- (1) unsettled
- (2) or alarmed

b) *by the teaching allegedly from us*

- (1) —whether by
 - (a) *a prophecy*
 - (b) *or by word of mouth*
 - (c) *or by letter —*
- (2) asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

2. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way,

B. for that day will not come until

1. the rebellion occurs

2. and the man of lawlessness is revealed,

a) *the man doomed to destruction.*

b) ⁴He

- (1) will oppose
- (2) and will exalt himself over everything
 - (a) *that is called God*
 - (b) *or is worshiped,*
- (3) so that he
 - (a) *sets himself up in God's temple,*
 - (b) *proclaiming himself to be God.*

II. ⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

A. ⁶ And now you know

1. what is holding him back,

2. so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

B. ⁷ For

1. the secret power of lawlessness is already at work;

2. but the one who now holds it back

a) *will continue to do so*

b) *till he is taken out of the way.*

3. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus

- a) *will overthrow with the breath of his mouth*
 - b) *and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*
 - C. ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one**
 - 1. **will be in accordance with how Satan works.**
 - 2. **He will use all sorts of displays of power through**
 - a) *signs*
 - b) *and wonders that serve the lie,*
 - c) ¹⁰ *and all the ways that wickedness deceives*
 - (1) those who are perishing.
 - (2) They perish because they refused to
 - (a) *love the truth*
 - (b) *and so be saved.*
 - d) ¹¹ *For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion*
 - (1) so that they will believe the lie
 - (2) ¹² and so that all will be condemned who
 - (a) *have not believed the truth*
 - (b) *but have delighted in wickedness.*
- III. ¹³ **But we ought always**
 - A. **to thank God for you,**
 - 1. **brothers and sisters loved by the Lord,**
 - 2. **because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved**
 - a) *through the sanctifying work of the Spirit*
 - b) *and through belief in the truth.*
 - 3. ¹⁴ **He called you to this**
 - a) *through our gospel,*
 - b) *that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - B. ¹⁵ **So then, brothers and sisters,**
 - 1. **stand firm**
 - 2. **and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you,**
 - a) *whether by word of mouth*
 - b) *or by letter.*
 - C. ¹⁶ **May our**
 - 1. **Lord Jesus Christ himself**
 - 2. **and God our Father, who**
 - a) *loved us*
 - b) *and by his grace gave us*
 - (1) eternal encouragement
 - (2) and good hope,
 - c) ¹⁷ *encourage your hearts*
 - d) *and strengthen you in every*
 - (1) good deed
 - (2) and word.

Conceptual Outline 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

- I. **Exhortation to not be deceived**
 - A. Do not be unsettled or alarmed emotionally
 - B. or be deceived intellectually by false prophecy
- II. **Timing of the Lord's coming**
 - A. not until the rebellion occurs
 - B. not until the man of lawlessness is revealed
 - 1. his destiny is destruction
 - 2. his traits
 - a) *oppose God and puts himself up as god*
 - b) *sets himself up in God's temple claiming to be God*
- III. **Sequence of things to come**
 - A. The man of lawlessness is being held back until the proper time according to God
 - B. Current condition
 - 1. secret power of lawlessness is at work
 - 2. another power is at work holding him back & will do so until he's taken away
 - C. The lawless one will be revealed
 - D. Christ will overthrow & destroy him with his breath and splendor when Christ returns
- IV. **The lawless one works in accordance with how Satan works**
 - A. Deceives through display of power and lies
 - B. The perishing will
 - 1. refuse salvation & the truth
 - 2. believe lie
 - 3. delight in wickedness
 - 4. be condemned
 - C. God sends them a powerful delusion
- V. **Stability in Christ**
 - A. Based on
 - 1. God's choosing and calling
 - 2. Spirit's sanctifying work
 - 3. belief in the truth (in Christ)
 - B. Believers' response
 - 1. stand firm
 - 2. hold on to the apostle's teaching
 - C. Prayer for encouragement and strength from God

Theme: Knowing the sequence of what's to come and how Satan works help us stand firm and not become unsettled or alarmed.

Questions

1. Since becoming a believer, have you ever heard of predictions about Jesus' return? How did these predictions affect you? Do they alarm you, make you afraid, discouraged, cynical, or more eager of His return?

2. Read II Thess 2. Let's focus on vs. 1-4. What false teaching were the Thessalonians confronted with? What does Paul urge them to avoid emotionally and intellectually? From vs. 3-4, what are the reasons they do not need to be alarmed? What are some of the traits of the man of lawlessness? Can you imagine what could happen when the Antichrist is revealed? How would life be for us as believers? Where is this man's final destiny?
 - that the day of the Lord has already come & they're left behind.
 - Emotion: avoid being easily unsettled or alarmed; Intellectually: avoid being deceived by prophecy, word of mouth, or letter allegedly from the apostle.
 - The preludes to His coming have not occurred yet. The rebellion, the man of lawlessness is not revealed yet.
 - his traits
 - oppose God and puts himself up as god
 - sets himself up in God's temple claiming to be God
 - his destiny is destruction

3. Thinking of the Antichrist can be quite scary. In Vs. 5-8, Paul helps us look at another dimension which would help us stand firm. These verses describe a sequence of things to come. Can you identify them? We see 2 different forces at work until Jesus return. Can you identify & describe each and their relative power? What are some of the ways Paul tells us that God is in control? In your life, do you see these powers are work? How might knowing that God is in control make a difference in the way you feel and think?
 1. The man of lawlessness is being held back until the proper time according to God
 2. Current condition
 - a. secret power of lawlessness is at work
 - b. another power is at work holding him back & will do so until he's taken away
 3. The lawless one will be revealed
 4. Christ will overthrow & destroy him with his breath and splendor when Christ returns
 - Secret power of lawlessness, being held back, follows a time table, rebellious, lawless, oppose God, seeks to replace God.
God's power: has to power to hold & release, work through men/structure, fully in control, much more powerful but patient with time, has ultimate victory
 - See above, it'll be almost effortless for Christ to destroy this secret lawless power

4. Vs 9-12 describe how Satan work through the Antichrist & his influence, can you describe how Satan works? Who are being influenced & how? What are the steps of their delusion? What is God's part in the deception? Why? What warning can you take from these steps of delusion?

- Deceives through display of power and lies
 - The perishing
 1. refuse salvation & the truth
 2. believe lie
 3. delight in wickedness
 4. be condemned

 - God sends them a powerful delusion because of their refusal to believe v.10 (see Rom 1:24-28)
 - It's a scary thought that if we refuse to obey, God will give us over to greater delusion. Therefore, we need to receive salvation and obey without resisting the Spirit.
5. In vs. 13-17, Paul switches from talking about the man of lawlessness and the perishing to focus on believers. What does he urge believers to do? What is the difference between stand firm and hold fast? Compare v. 15 with end of v. 2. What is missing? Why is prophecy missing from this list? Before Paul's exhortation to stand firm, what did he remind them of? Why is that so important in our effort to stand firm?
- Stand firm (not influence) and hold fast (not give up what you have) to the teachings of the apostle
 - prophecy, probably because prophecy is near completion and is included in their teachings. Prophecy is also too mystical.
 - God's calling and choosing of us. In a world of rebelliousness and unrest, God is our stability. He calls us from the very beginning, completes the work of salvation, sanctifies us through His Spirit. He is in control and will complete his work of salvation despite how awful the world's condition may be. This truth gives us hope and assurance to stand firm without giving up.
6. Having reminded them of God's sovereignty and Christ's redemption, Paul goes on to pray for the Thessalonians. What does he pray for? How can they be certain that God will encourage and strengthen them?
- That God will encourage their hearts and strengthen them for good work.
 - This is based on God's Character: He loves us, is gracious, and has given us eternal hope
7. As we wait patiently for Christ's return, what are some of the lessons Paul taught us today that would be encouraging to you? How has Satan deceived you at times? What do you need to do to stand firm and hold on?