



2 Thes 2—The Man of Lawlessness

June 2

CATCH UP: [1 Thessalonians](#)

OVERVIEW: [2 Thessalonians](#)

CONTEXT: This church had been birthed in persecution, yet they'd remained faithful. In his first letter Paul applauded this, among other things. Now persecution had increased. Paul wrote a short response to bolster their faith. In ch. 1 he reminded them of the hope of Christ's 2nd coming and in ch. 2, clarity in the face of misrepresentative teaching on the coming of the Lord.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Gal 2:16)

- Where in Paul's missionary journey did these events happen?
- How may we contrast the Jewish response in Thessalonica and Berea to the Gospel?
- Why were the Bereans commended by Luke?
- How can people be Bereans today?
- Other discussion points...

READ: 2 Thes 2:1–15

**A reminder to be charitable and open minded as we discuss a passage that touches on the end as many godly Christians have varying views.*

QUESTIONS:

1. **Ch. 1-** Though we may need to comfort or encourage people in greater ways later, what is the benefit of quick encouragements? What sorts of Gospel encouragements might we be called to offer?
2. *Vv. 1–3a-* Harkening back to 1 Thes Paul addresses misrepresentations of his teaching about Christ's return. Some were teaching the Day of the Lord was upon them, or that He'd secretly come already or that He'd abandoned these Christians. Since Jesus' return would be public (Mk 13:26), though sudden (what is meant by 1 The 5:2), Paul assures them they've not missed out. He reminds them of something that must take place first (v. 3b+).

Thought of Jesus' return ought to bring about comfort and not confusion for the believer.

3. **What misrepresentations about Christ's return [may] exist today?**
4. *V. 5-* It is interesting to note that eschatology (teaching about the end) was part and parcel of discipleship. Though Christians may differ, what practical effect does teaching about Christ's return have on our discipleship now?
5. **Vv. 3b–4-** **What event and figure precedes Christ's return? Why is he called the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction?**
 1. *Rebellion is the consummation of that begun by Adam and which has been developing since the Fall (Ro 1).*
 2. *History, filled with godless, self-exalting figures, will culminate in one such man. This man is also called the anti-Christ (1 Jn 2:22 and 2 Jn 7 (note John also talks about anti-Christ, or anyone who is against Jesus [1 Jn 2:18])). It is interesting how this man will have a "coming" (v. 8) just as Christ will have a coming (v. 1).*
6. **What will be the number one characteristic of this man to alert us? How does this link to godless rebellion?** *(Note: the temple needn't mean a real temple but probably is figurative of him visibly occupying a place/status of worship).¹*
7. *Vv. 6–8-* Paul recounts what he had taught them. Sadly, we weren't a fly on the wall and so this seems too short a recollection. This spirit exists now (at the behest of Satan) to oppose truth. At the end he will be personified as this figure. This spirit is presently restrained by whom?
8. **V. 8-** **How powerful is this man compared to Jesus?**
9. *Vv. 9–12-* Already deluded from rejecting the Gospel, God intensifies that delusion as part of His judgement upon all His enemies. **How is God's justice another display of His glory?**
10. *Vv. 13–15-* **What does Paul encourage them in? What present proof do they have that God will fulfil things as He has said through Paul?**

NEXT TIME: June 9, 1 Cor 3, Divisions in the Church

¹ What if, Satan being a deceiver, this man was a trans-woman?