



Stay on Target
Studies in 2 Thessalonians

Stand Fast
2 Thessalonians 2
Lesson 7

Introduction

Every generation of believers must face the dilemma of how to live in the tension between the possibility of Christ's immediate return and the impossibility of knowing exactly when He would come. Struggling through persecution, the Thessalonians found their hope in the soon return of Christ. Some believers were succumbing to the false teaching that the Second Coming of Christ had already come bringing with it the tribulations that they were now facing.

Paul clearly describes some of the major events that would precede the day of the Lord. A great falling away, or departure would lead to the revealing of the man of sin or Antichrist who would attempt to divert the churches true worship of God. This spirit of evil and deception already exists in the world today. Knowing and understanding the truth found in the Word of God helps guard against the lies of deception. Standing fast in the truth of the Word is the believers greatest defense against losing hope when the world around us seems dark and unfamiliar.

Treasures of the Heart

*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;
only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.*

2 Thessalonians 2:7

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Look - What do you see?

Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 _____

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 _____

Live - How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 _____

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. **Summarize your findings in your own words.**

Looking for Jesus. . .

Hope for Christ's return is an anchor in the midst of persecution and the motivation for holy living in the midst of a perverse world. The expectation of the **Day of the Lord** is the theme of 2 Thessalonians. Paul writes to correct false doctrine that has crept into the church. See if you can state Paul's correction about the **Day of the Lord**, and how they are to live daily. **State these truths in your own words.**

State a reference to the Day of the Lord.

How is it applied to daily living?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 _____

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

If you stand on the Word, you will not fall for the devil's lies.

Warren Wiersbe

