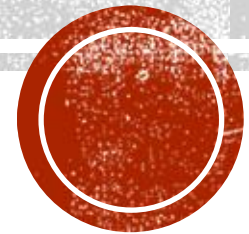


**2ND THESSALONIANS 2:
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING,
BECAUSE EVERY LITTLE
THING'S GONNA BE
ALLRIGHT**



HEY EVERYBODY

I'm still thinking now and then about how Rich took us through v. 1-5, and how suffering and trials involve grow our perseverance, faith, and love, if we respond correctly.

- But when you suffer, that involves God, who sends you the trial, and you, obviously, but who else does it involve?
- Who else have you seen suffer well that you can remember?



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

Now we ask you, brothers *and sisters*, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit, or a message, or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

³ No one is to deceive you in any way! For *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains *him* now, so that he will be revealed in his time.



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is removed. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

By the end of this lesson, we will have nailed down:

- How and when we will be gathered together with Jesus
- Exactly what “apostasy” means in this context
- What is meant by “he who restrains”
- How to tell the difference from an ordinary man of lawlessness vs. THE man of lawlessness
- The order of the events described (gathering, the departure, the arrival of the man of lawlessness, the removal of He who restrains, etc).

...and what other questions should we answer about this passage?



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

But seriously!

Are there any items on this list that you read and you're not sure you can identify when they are happening or what they'll look like?

Why do you think Paul would race through so many concepts and leave us with so much ambiguity, and so many unanswered questions?

What is the purpose of this brief description of the end times? What did Paul say he was specifically trying to accomplish?

- That you not be shaken from your composure
- Or (that you not be) disturbed, as if by a message or letter as if from us
....thinking the Day of the Lord had come



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

How would it be troubling, or shaking, or a faith-ending event if we were a believer and thought that the Day of the Lord had already happened? What would that mean for things like:

- The resurrection?
- Being together with Jesus?
- Being reunited with deceased loved ones?
- The ongoing sin, death, and trouble on earth?
- The judgment of believers and judgment of unbelievers?
- Rewards for obedience?

If all of these things were currently “true” in their final sense, or had happened but we’d been skipped over, what would that mean for us as believers?

See 1 Corinthians 15:19



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

Thinking back to Paul's purpose, and the events he's describing. Is it important that we be able to definitively recognize all or some of these events or things? Or describe them in advance?

- The departure, or "apostasy?"
- The arrival of the "man of sin?"
- The "false signs and wonders?"
- The deception of the wicked?
- The final judgment?
- Being gathered together with Jesus?

See also: Matthew 24:23-31. What role does our recognition of these events play in their occurrence? (Possible analogy – the locked door)



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

What is Paul's simple conclusion after telling us about the future?

Trick question, it's really in verse 15. Sorry to whoever comes next but let's read it now:

15 So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

The things that promise meaning for our lives as believers in Christ have yet to happen, so live in anticipation of them.



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

Extra credit:

- Is anyone bothered or curious or instilled with confidence by Paul's declaration that God will send a deluding influence on those who perish so they will NOT accept the truth so that they WILL be judged?
- Same question for being told that we were *chosen* for salvation through sanctification (v. 13)? Why does Paul stop to throw a fly in our ointment and mention something that sounds like double predestination?
- Possible explanation – the Thessalonians did not grow up with an understanding of a sovereign, perfect deity acting according to a plan. Their deities were bumbling, flawed idiots.



2ND THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

Application:

- What's a small, mundane example of living like we anticipate being together with Jesus someday?
- How would our life be different if we had that in mind more often?

