



# Step by Step

## 53. 2 Thessalonians



**Author** // Paul

**Original Recipients** // The church in Thessalonica, a leading city in the Roman province of Macedonia. With an estimated population of 200,000 people, it had a long and illustrious history as an important part of the Greek and Roman world. As a harbor city, it would become a strategic location for the spread of the gospel throughout the Empire, but it would also prove to be a challenging backdrop to serve and follow Christ.

**Date of Writing** // Second Thessalonians was written shortly after First Thessalonians, circa 52 AD.

**Type of Literature** // Didactic

**Major Themes** // Practical Christian Living; The Imminent Return of Christ

**Occasion for Writing** // In Paul's absence many false teachers were creating confusion among the Thessalonian believers. They had gone so far as to send letters (written in the name of Paul) that supported their doctrines. Their false teachings affected the way the church viewed the return of Christ and practical Christian living. Second Thessalonians was written to correct these errors.



**Simple Summary** // False teaching created a fear in the lives of the church members that they had missed the rapture of the church and were facing the judgment of God. Paul wrote to correct this teaching and to call the church to godly living in the midst of increasing tribulation. The book reminds them of Paul's teaching regarding the coming of Christ and then calls them to stand fast in the Lord as they await His return.



**Outline** // One helpful outline for Second Thessalonians:

- 1-2 // *The Coming Day of the Lord*
- 3 // *Standing Fast*

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## Key Verses

**1:3** // We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other

**1:6** // since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you

**2:1-2** // Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 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.

**2:3** // 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,

**2:15** // Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

**3:10** // For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

**3:13** // But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.



## Jesus in Second Thessalonians

Christ is depicted as the one who will return to bring judgment on those who afflict the people of God. When He returns He will vanquish the enemies and reward His saints.

