

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5

Chapter 1 - Thanksgiving and Prayer

Chapter 2 - Main Teaching - About the 2nd coming of Jesus

Do Not Know

Letters of NT // One Side of Telephone Conversation - Background

2.5 - Paul had taught them these things /DO NOT KNOW WHOLE STORY
WRITING CONTAINS MANY REFERENCES TO HIS ORAL
TEACHING

2.1-12 Most Difficult of all Paul's writings/ APOCALYPTIC STYLE
WISE TO USE BALANCE AND CAUTION IN OUR INTERPRETATION

APOCALYPTIC- more concern with our CHARACTER than
CALENDARS

not for setting dates and guessing - PRINCIPLES OF GODLY LIVING

Chapter 1 - Physical Persecution / Chapter 2 - Intellectual Attack -
WORSE!

2.1-3 False Teaching / 2.4-12 Correct Truth / 2.13-17 Confidence in Them

2.1 - SUBJECT OF CONFUSION - Jesus return & our gathering with Him

1 Thess- Believers worried Christ NOT coming - 2 Thess - ALREADY
came

2.2 - SOURCES OF CONFUSION - Paul wants their minds to be at Peace

1) Prophecy lit. "spirit" - supernatural revelation

2) Report - verbal message - maybe a sermon - BE CAREFUL!!!

3) Letter - either forgery or false interpretation of 1 Thess
REASON FOR SIGNATURE OF PAUL - 3.17 - accept no forgeries

FALSE TEACHERS CLAIMED AUTHORITY OF APOSTLE PAUL
"supposed to have come from us"

MESSAGE - "Day of Lord" - came already - YOU MISSED IT!

2.3 - 2 SIGNS OF HIS COMING - Event must happen / Person must come

EVENT - "the rebellion" - something known by Paul's readers

PERSON - "man of lawlessness" // "the anti-Christ" of John's letters

FOUR NAMES / CHARACTERISTICS of this Person

- 1) "Lawless"
- 2) "Doomed to destruction"
- 3) Enemy - he will oppose
- 4) Climber - Exalts himself over everything else

Emphasis - AGAINST LAW AND AGAINST GOD

FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY - Law and Religion - MORAL ORDER

AGAINST LAW - v. 3 "man of lawlessness" / v. 8 "lawless one"

AGAINST GOD - v. 4 "exalt himself over everything - sit in Temple"

"TEMPLE"?? - in Jerusalem? PROBABLY NOT / NO SPECIFIC TEMPLE
picture of Temple as -House of God- where HE IS SITTING/
ENTHRONED

CLAIMING HE IS GOD / DEMANDING TO BE WORSHIPPED

WHO IS HE? - why it is difficult to know

- 1) We do not have background info Paul gave in person to believers
- 2) Church history is filled with people who have made guesses & failed

BAD EXAMPLES

Isaiah 14 - King of Babylon - "I will ascend to heaven & sit enthroned"

Ezekiel 28 - Ruler of Tyre - "I sit on the throne of God"

King Antiochus of Syria - 169 BC - entered Most Holy Place
placed an altar to Zeus - sacrificed a pig - Mt 24.15 "abomination"
Pompey - Roman general in 63 BC - entered the Holy of Holies in
Jerusalem

Religious Leaders - Muhammed, the Pope

Political Leaders - Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Clinton?

FURTHER UNDERSTANDING - 1 John - Scripture interprets Scripture

1 John 4.1-4 - "already in world" - DENIES THE INCARNATION
1 John 2.18 "many antichrists have come"
vs. 22,23 - denies the Son and the Father

HOW CAN WE RESIST THIS -

1 John 2.24,25 - REMAIN IN THE TEACHING

2 Thess 2.5 "don't you remember when I told you.."

WAY TO RESIST ERROR IS BY HOLDING ON TO THE TRUTH

GOD HAS NOT CHANGED HIS PURPOSE - as Thessalonians worried

WORD OF GOD IS SETTLED IN HEAVEN - confidence in Him & Word

v. 3 "do not let anyone deceive you" // Galatians 1 - even angel from heaven

2.15 "stand firm and hold to the teachings"

1) You need to stand on the teachings through any troubles & trials

2) You need to give believers the good teaching to stand on

WORK HARD - STUDY - REVIEW NOTES - DISCUSS - PRAY

2 Tim 2.15 “Study to show yourself approved as a workman of God, so you will not be ashamed, rightly handling/interpreting the word”