

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 Stand Firm

There are 774,747 words in the Bible – I counted them all ..... And yet the most comforting word in the Bible is found only in one place

A) There at the end of 1 Cor 16 there in v.22 – is the word Maranatha

➤ Aramaic word: It simply means the Lord comes!

B) The Coming of Jesus is one of the great themes in 1-2 Thessalonians

C) We noted in our recent study of 1 Thessalonians that Paul mentions the Lord's coming in every chapter!

D) And in Chapters 4-5 He spoke in great detail about the rapture of the church and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.

The Rapture – Our Gathering to Him – Jesus comes **for His Church** – takes us to Heaven – John 14

A) THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING – Jesus comes **with His Church** – to set up His Kingdom on earth 1,000 years

B) Paul made it very clear in 1 Thessalonians 4-5 that the rapture would precede the tribulation time –

C) Time God's wrath poured out....**shorten no survivors**

Paul made it very clear that believers would escape that time because we are **not appointed unto wrath but unto Salvation**

A) Why Paul ended those teachings in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and chapter 5 with the same exhortation:

Therefore comfort one another with these words.-  
1 Thessalonians 4:18

B) 1 Thessalonians 5:11- Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

C) These teachings about the rapture and Christ 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are meant to comfort and encourage us!

But about a year after Paul started the church there

A) False teachers came into the church in Thessalonica – promoting the idea that – THE DAY OF CHRIST HAD COME

B) They had **missed the rapture** and were in the great Tribulation.

1) The reason they were teaching that is the Church was experiencing great persecution ..... Romans

C) This message was very disturbing to the Believers there. – Troubled – shaken

D) Imagine being told – Missed the rapture and you were in the Tribulation

1) Paul writes 2 Thessalonians to clear up that confusion.

E) He doesn't want them Shaken – describes a ship out at sea in the midst of a storm.

It is important to note that **the only reason** the Thessalonian believers would be shaken or troubled by the thought of being in the Great Tribulation

A) Was if Paul had taught them that they were going to **escape the wrath and time of Judgment** through the rapture.

B) If Paul had taught them that they were going to go through the Great tribulation – **or experience part it**

1) they would have saw the Tribulation as a necessary prelude to the Second Coming.

C) The fact that they were shaken and confused in being told they were in the tribulation – is clear evidence – Paul taught pretrib rapture = ...Escape.

So here in Chapter 2 Paul gives them 3 signs that will mark that coming day – The Great Tribulation.

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.

The Day of Christ – also known as the Day of the Lord - NOT A SPECIFIC DAY – **time period**

1) Begins with the Rapture – includes the Great Tribulation and culminates with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

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.

### **3 Signs marking the coming day!**

1. There would be a falling away first – great apostasy
2. The man of sin (Antichrist) would be revealed
3. The one who restrains would be removed

**#1 There would be a falling away first – great apostasy - 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first**

A) The ancient Greek wording for falling away indicates a *rebellion* or a *departure*.

B) Bible scholars debate if it refers to an apostasy among those who once followed God, or a general worldwide rebellion

C) Paul the apostle actually wrote of both.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

**In the last days – believers would be departing from the faith. Turning from the truth.**

A) How many of you know someone right now who once walked with Jesus – currently backslidden.

B) See that more and more –

1) False teachings creeping into the church –

C) Me centered gospel - “This is all about what Jesus can do for me –

1) My happiness

**So Paul wrote that in the last days – Many departing from the faith –**

A) Also wrote of a general apostasy – Culture in General turning from the truth of God’s word.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous {dangerous and troubling} times will come: <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>**having a form of godliness but denying its power.**

**Talking spiritually – no power no evidence**

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

**So in those two passages Paul states that the last days would be marked by a time when people would be departing from the faith – Faith in Christ**

A) No longer enduring sound doctrine – turning aside after false teachings

**And they would be marked by a time of general apostasy – culture in general turning from the truth.**

A) We are living in that day and age now!

B) Stats on Deconstructionism

**But notice here in V. 3 Paul calls this the falling away.**

A) The article speaks of a specific falling away – a specific time when people in mass would be turning away from God!

**B)After the rapture – 2 responses – those who turn to the Lord {Rev. 7 innumerable amount of people who will be martyred**

1)Those who turn way to follow the Anti-Christ

C)So during the tribulation an even more pronounced apostasy occurs

1)Right now the stage is being set

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sign – #2 The Man of sin is revealed! and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

**The man of sin**

A) Revelation 6 – White horse rider false Christ  
He comes as a self-appointed Messiah

Characteristics of the man of sin.

v.9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power signs, and lying wonders,

B)**According to the working of Satan:** Inspiration and backing

1)Called the son of perdition

C)The only other person in the Bible given that title was Judas –

1)interesting that the Bible declares that Satan himself entered Judas

D)Satan will enter the one known as Anti-Christ.

**Great power signs and wonders he is going to have answers for the problems of the world**

A)Miracles are not a sign that something is from God

B)Need to pay attention to the message

C)Sobering – we did miracles cast out demons....

1)Depart from me I did not know you.

**The Anti-Christ is going to have Great power!**

A)He is going to be a man of great influence

**B)Charismatic leader – with movie star looks**

C)Great orator –

D)He is going to have answers to the world's problems – especially economic problems

**The world is being primed right now to embrace such a leader.**

Stats on Globalism - See prophecy update

Upheaval in Israel today

**He comes with Lying wonders V.10**

**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.**

A)He is the ultimate deceiver

B)Note that phrase in v10b - **because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

C)Leading up to this time there is going to still be opportunity for pp to be saved.

D)But Paul says – they did not receive the love of the truth –

1)They gave no welcome to the truth – reject it

**So God is going to give them over to a strong delusion – meet them in their rebellion**

A)Sort of like with Pharaoh – Hardened his heart – over and over –

B)God hardened Pharaoh's heart -

C)Listen there is still time to be saved – trust Christ today.

D)Anti-Christ is going to be a great Deceiver

**He is even going to deceive Israel – they will embrace him as their Messiah –**

A)Help them rebuild their temple – Ask orthodox Jews today – Messiah ..... temple

B)Temple research institute – everything is in place

They just need permission – Arabs

C)The Anti-Christ will come up with a solution to the most debated piece of real-estate on the planet

**That will all come to a head when in the middle of the tribulation He will desecrate their temple.**

v.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.

D) Trib time is divided into Two 3 1/2 yr periods – separated by this even According to Dan 9 – 7 year - Treaty with Israel

**E) In the middle of that treaty he does what Daniel calls and Jesus refers to in the Gospel of Matt – as the Abomination of desolation**

1) Temple declares himself to be God – and demands to be worshipped as God

**F) Jesus referred to this as the Abomination of Desolation – Matthew 24**

1) Spoken of by Daniel the Prophet – Daniel 9 and Daniel 11

**So Paul says here how you can know you are not in the tribulation yet.**

#1 There will be a great falling away – great apostasy

#2 The Man of sin – the Lawless one will come into power

**#3 The one who restrains will have to be removed first.**

A) Before the anti-Christ comes into power- there is a restraining influence that has to be removed first.

B) What is the restraining influence? – Not a what but a who!

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.**

C) Some have thought – this is reference to the Holy Spirit being removed –

1) Triune God..... Omni- present

D) Because people come to Christ during the tribulation – the bible makes it clear that can't happen unless the Holy Spirit draws

**The Restraining influence in the world right now**

**is the Holy Spirit in the Life of His Church.**

A) Jesus said – You are the salt of the earth – Salt in that culture was used a preserving element – MEAT

**B) Jesus was saying that is what you are to be – that Voice of Morality –**

1) Voice that stands up and says – We still know what Morality is – BIBLE TELLS

C) We are not going to let culture dictate our morals

1) God already gave us the guidebook

D) We Know what gender is – Male and female

1) We know what marriage is – Man and woman

**Now imagine a culture where you could believe anything you want – no restraints**

A) That day is coming when the anti-Christ comes into power and opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped

B) But right now the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church is restraining – stand in the way.

C) And we will continue to do so until – V.7 **we are taken out of the way.**

1) When are we taken out – RAPTURE –

Don't be Shaken - but instead Stand Fast

<sup>13</sup> But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, **brethren beloved by the Lord**, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, <sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul begins by affirming their conversion - V.13-14 have been described as a Miniature picture of Christian Theology

- **We were chosen by God** V.13

- **Drawn or Set apart [ sanctified] by the spirit**

- **Called according to the gospel** V.14 – Goodnews of Jesus – Savior for sinners

- **Required to believe.** V.13

- **For this purpose to be destined for glory!**  
V.14

**A) That in a nutshell is the Christian faith!**

1) Chosen by God - drawn by the Holy Spirit / presented with the gospel / required to respond / Result – Glory

B) Glorious truth and reality that we are destined for Heaven

**That being the case what should be our Posture in the meantime – Left here in this crazy world ?**  
V.15

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

**Paul's word: Stand Fast –**

A) Military term Idea of digging in – Soldiers on front line.

B) Defending a Position – Stand your ground!

C) Question How do we stand fast?

D) Connection between man's responsibility and God's faithfulness

**Our part**

**Stand fast holding onto the traditions you were taught in the word and by the apostles.**

**Henry Dempsey was flying his 15 passenger turboprop plane from Lewiston Maine to Boston.**

At 4000 feet he heard a noise in the back of the plane where the rear stairs are. He turned the controls over to his co-pilot and walked to the back.

**The plane hit turbulence knocked him against the door and it fell open.**

Dempsey was sucked part way out, fell face down on the steps and grabbed for something -- anything that might save his life. **He caught a railing and held on.**

**The co-pilot thought he had fallen out and diverted the flight to a nearby airport.**

When he landed they found Dempsey with his face 12 inches off the runway and with his hands so tight around that rail that his fingers had to be pried open.

**Listen that is the type of grip we need to have when it comes to the word of God – the teachings of the apostles that have been handed down**

A) Christians today need to hear these words again. **"Stand fast." – Ever changing culture**

B) See If we detach ourselves from **God's Word** we are going to waver!

1) We are going to become unstable and confused about morality – Holiness – our place/ impact .....

C) So WE need a Death grip to the truths of scripture

1) Worth dying for!

**Stand fast Knowing that Jesus is holding on to us!**  
**<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.**

**Stand fast knowing that Jesus has a tighter grip on you than you could ever have on him.**

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless  
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

<sup>25</sup> To God our Savior,  
Who alone is wise,  
Be glory and majesty,  
Dominion and power,  
Both now and forever.  
Amen. Jude 24-25

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. - 1 Corinthians 15:58**