

The Now and Not Yet

Lesson 2

2 Thessalonians 2

August 16, 2020

Stand Firm While We Wait

Introduction

Waiting is one of the most challenging things we have to do regularly. We have to wait for appointments, events, loved ones, packages, results, etc. Waiting is an exercise in patience, and we find all manner of ways to distract ourselves while we wait. Parents, when waiting with their children, have an arsenal of tricks to distract their children.

The church at Thessalonica was waiting. They were waiting for Christ's return and were becoming distracted by the false teachers of the day. Paul warns the Thessalonians not to become distracted while they wait. Instead, they should stand firm in what they know and understand about God and be wary of the false teachers.

In our world today, many are becoming impatient for Christ's return. It's easy to be distracted by the events in the world, the naysayers, and "teachers" who are twisting God's word to suit their agendas. But, we need to stand firm in our understanding of God's word, as it is written, and continue waiting patiently for our God to return.

Memory verse: "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter."—2 Thessalonians 2:15

Pray and read 2 Thessalonians 2. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What is being asked of the brothers and sisters? (2 Thessalonians 2:2)
2. What warning is being given? (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
3. What will “the man of lawlessness” do? (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
4. What is already at work? When will it be stopped? (2 Thessalonians 2:7)
5. What will happen to the lawless one? How will this be done? (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
6. What will the lawless one do? What will happen to those who believe the lawless one? (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
7. What are we to do? (2 Thessalonians 2:13-15)

8. What blessing does Paul give? (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

What does the passage mean?

1. In 2 Thessalonians 2:2, Paul warns the Thessalonians to be aware of the false teachers that claim the Lord as already come. How can we identify false teachers? (Matthew 7:15-16; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3)

2. Paul explains the man of lawlessness will be revealed before the day of the Lord. What will the man of lawlessness cause to happen in the world? (Matthew 24:10-12; Romans 1:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-10)

3. Paul offers hope amid his descriptions of the man of lawlessness. How can we have faith that God will ultimately triumph over evil? (Matthew 24:30-31; Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8; Jude 14-15)

4. Reread 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to stand firm while in their faith. How do we stand firm in our faith? (Psalm 57:7, 119:11; 1 Peter 5:6-10; Jude 20-21)

5. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that God chose them. How do we know that God chose us? (Ezekiel 18:31-32; Luke 15:8-10, 19:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-6)

Applying the passages

1. How can you know whether or not the teachings or teachers you follow are helpful or harmful? (Matthew 7:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:2; Galatians 1:6-9)

