

## 2 THESSALONIANS

**Author: Paul**

**Date: A.D. 51**

A few months after writing his first letter to the church at Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul sees the need to write again. Some of the believers had fallen prey to false teaching, thinking that the Day of the Lord had already begun. Paul corrects that error by describing certain identifiable events that will precede the Day of the Lord. He also gives encouragement to the Thessalonian believers whose faith was being tested by persecution. Paul also addressed the problem of those who refused to work because they thought the end was near.

Paul had not taught that any events had to take place before the Lord's coming (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). However, now he teaches that before the Day of the Lord begins, there will be a great apostasy, the restrainer will be removed, and the man of lawlessness will be revealed. ("The man of lawlessness" is universally regarded as the "antichrist".)

In these three short chapters, Paul stresses once more the points he had covered in his first letter: 1) He offers encouragement in persecution; 2) Christ will return in the future; 3) Christians have the responsibility to work diligently in faith, hope and love.

**Theme:** Clarification concerning the coming of the Day of the Lord.

**Key verses:** "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good word and work," (2:16-17).

### OUTLINE

- I. Encouragement in Persecution (1:1-12)
  - A. Thanksgiving for Their Growth (1:1-4)
  - B. Encouragement in Their Persecution (1:5-10)
  - C. Prayer for God's Blessing (1:11-12)
- II. Explanation of the Day of the Lord (2:1-17)
  - A. Events Preceding the Day of the Lord (2:1-12)
  - B. Comfort of the Believer on the Day of the Lord (2:13-17)
- III. Exhortation to the Church (3:1-18)
  - A. Patiently Wait for the Lord (3:1-5)
  - B. Warning Against Idleness (3:6-16)
  - C. Concluding Remarks (3:17-18)