

Worksheet #9: 2 Thessalonians 2:1–17 (NKJV)

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

¹³ 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,¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

¹⁶ 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,¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Interpretation: Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.

1. What situation is Paul's primary concern in this passage (vv. 1–2)? What is his response?
.....
.....
.....
2. What must precede the coming of the Day of the Lord (v. 3)? Describe this event using details from context (vv. 3–4).
.....
.....
.....
3. What does the phrase “the falling away” likely describe? You may want to compare a variety of translations.
.....
.....
.....
4. What actions does the text attribute to the “man of sin/lawlessness,” also described here as the “son of perdition/destruction” (vv. 3–4)?
.....
.....
.....
5. How might we identify the thing that “is restraining” (v. 6) and the one who “restrains” (v. 7)? What might be the relationship between the two? How might this restraining influence be removed or “taken out of the way” (v. 7)?
.....
.....
.....
6. What sets the Thessalonians apart from “those who perish” (v. 10), according to vv. 13–15?
.....
.....
.....
7. What is Paul's goal in writing this passage to the Thessalonians (v. 16–17)?
.....
.....
.....

Application: Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?
.....
.....
.....
9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
.....
.....
.....

For Further Study: As the study questions hopefully demonstrate, this passage includes a number of significant and challenging interpretational questions, regardless of one's position on eschatology (the doctrine of “last things”). Readers who wish to go further may find the following resources to be helpful:

MacArthur, John. *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 2002. [No knowledge of Greek necessary.]

Hiebert, David Edmond. *The Thessalonian Epistles, a Call to Readiness*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971. [Assumes, yet does not depend heavily upon, some knowledge of Greek.]

Archer, Gleason L., ed. *Three Views on the Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Post-Tribulation?* Counterpoints. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1996. [Greek and Hebrew terms are not transliterated, yet occur relatively rarely and with English contextual explanation.]