



LESSON EIGHT

Kingdom Victory 2 Thessalonians 2-3

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits[b] to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings[c] we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching[d] you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

1. Share why you believe the Kansas City Chiefs are the best NFL team. If you don't believe this fact, share why you are wrong. If you refuse to answer these questions, share why you don't want to acknowledge reality.

2. God was, is and will be with us! Share an experience from your life when God was faithful to you.

3. In 2 Thessalonians 2:5-10, Paul wrote about “the man of lawlessness” who seems to be an actual future leader. While we don’t know that leader’s exact identity, Paul writes that evil is already working in secret. After reading Isaiah 5:20 and 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 9-10, answer the following questions:

- What do these verses say about evil’s work in the world?
- How are you seeing evil at work in the world?
- Where are you seeing evil at work in your country? Your city? Your life?

4. Paul says that God will protect the Thessalonian Christians from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3). Thinking back on your life, how has God protected you from evil?

5. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15. Paul wrote the words "so then" to refer back to what he writes in vs. 13-14. What did Paul write in vs. 13-14 that caused him to write "so then."

6. Paul asks God to give the Thessalonian Christians peace at all times (2 Thessalonians 3:16). How is God giving you peace right now? Currently, where in your life is God giving you peace?

7. Have someone read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. According to Paul, why do believers stop doing good? In your personal opinion, why is it easy to get tired of consistently doing good? How can we guard against growing tired of doing good?

8. What are 1 or 2 of your biggest takeaways from this series on 1 & 2 Thessalonians (sermons and Life Groups study)? If you're having trouble recalling 1 or 2 takeaways, ask yourself, based on this series:

- What encouraged me?
- What challenged me?
- How did my attitude change?
- Did I learn something new?
- How was I convicted?
- How am I closer to God today than when I began this study?

PERSONAL GROWTH

1. Pray for the person with whom you are sharing Jesus.
2. Choose a verse from both 2 Thessalonians 2 and 2 Thessalonians 3 to memorize.
3. Identify which one of the 4 ideas do you need to grow in and make a plan to grow in that area:
 - Not allowing lawlessness in your life
 - Standing firm in your faith
 - Praying more and asking for prayer
 - Not being idle
4. Read 1 John 2:18-22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7 where John similarly writes about “antichrists.” Now, answer the following questions:
 - According to these verses, who or what is antichrist?
 - Do you see this idea of “antichrist” at work in our world today?
 - How does John’s description of “antichrist” in 1 John and 2 John differ from what he wrote in Revelation 13:1-10?