

The Antichrist: Diverting People from God

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, 15 (NLT)

2:1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. 2 Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. 3 Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. 4 He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.

5 Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? 6 And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. 7 For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the **one** ["he" - Greek text] who is holding it back ["he" - Greek text] steps out of the way.

New American Standard Version: "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 Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

9 This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. 10 He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. 11 So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. 12 Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

15 With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter.

Observation: Underline all references to the Antichrist including pronouns. **Box** in all references to God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. **Circle** the two action steps we should take in verse 15.

1. What subject was Paul addressing? (2:1)

2. What struggle did the Thessalonian's have? (2:2)

3. What must happen before the day of the Lord comes? (2:3)

4. What kind of person will the man of lawlessness be? (2:4)

5. What is delaying the coming of the man of lawlessness? (2:6)

6. What will happen to allow the man of lawlessness to be revealed? (2:7)

7. Who do you think the "he" is that has the power to hold back the man of lawlessness (the Antichrist)? (2:7)

8. What will happen when the man of lawlessness encounters the Lord Jesus? (2:8)

9. How will Satan's power be evident during the time of the man of lawlessness? (2:9-10a)

10. Why will people experience destruction in the End Times? (2:10b)

11. What will God do to allow those who delight in wickedness to persist in their ways? (2:11-12)

12. What encouragement did Paul give to the Thessalonian believers? (2:15)

13. What does it mean to stand firm as a Christian?

14. What teachings should a Christian hold onto as he or she lives for Christ?

Conclusion

We must be intentional and disciplined about staying focused on God—because the devil is working to distract us from God. *What place does God have in your heart, schedule, priorities, affections, finances, etc.? In what ways have you been distracted from God?*

Suggested Action Steps: ► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Read Second Thessalonians 2 and list the events concerning the Antichrist. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study on the End Times. ► Attend the next small group discussion on this topic.