

# Gleanings of Grace

## 2 Thessalonians 2

### Lesson 14

2 Thessalonians was written a few months, possibly a year, after Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica. Apparently, there was a misunderstanding about the Lord's coming. Some of the members were being troubled by false reports; others had stopped working, perhaps assuming that the Lord's imminent return meant one did not need to work anymore. Paul explained that the Lord may not come right away. Therefore they needed to continue with steadfastness and patience as they had been taught.

#### OBSERVATION: Read 2 Thessalonians 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus, God, and Holy Spirit*.  
Key Words: *Jesus, God, (Holy) Spirit, and references to the lawless one*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used two times in 2 Thessalonians 2. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in 2 Thessalonians 2:15. Mark the word and record what the conclusion is based upon.

**Background:**

1. Although Paul was writing to correct misunderstandings, he began his letter expressing his gratitude for the believers in Thessalonica. What was he thankful for?  
2 Thessalonians 1:3  
  
2 Thessalonians 1:4
  - a. Consider those you minister to or other Christians who are in your life. What about them are you thankful for?
2. Paul offered them words of encouragement in the midst of their suffering and persecution. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. What are some of the words or phrases Paul wrote in an effort to rally them to remain steadfast?
  - a. What are some promises of God that encourage you when you are hurting or frightened?
3. Paul closed the first chapter recounting his prayer for them. Using 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12, what did he pray?
  - a. In what ways does his prayer provoke you to incorporate these requests when you pray for others?

**Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1,2 – Shaken in Mind**

1. *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together with Him...* The people had been listening to false teachings which had warped their understanding. List some of the mis-perceptions people have today about His coming.

2. What was Paul's concern?
  - a. What three ways might they (and we) be *shaken in mind* or *troubled*? Note: *spirit* refers to someone who claims to have knowledge from God that does not.
    - 1.) What is the warning of 1 John 4:1?
    - 2.) In what ways might this be a warning to all believers regarding many subjects?
      - a.) What is an example of something that you have heard or read that caused you to *be shaken in mind or troubled* regarding something Biblical?
3. What should you do when you hear or read something that causes you to question what you have been taught?
  - a. What are some ways we can we practically research a Biblical truth?
4. According to the last phrase of verse 2, what were some of them believing?
  - a. Put yourself in their place. What thoughts and fears might you have if you thought that the rapture had already occurred and you had been left behind?

### **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 - The Man of Sin**

1. To calm the concerns of the believers, Paul told them that the Day of the Lord could not have occurred yet. According to verse 3, what two things had to happen for them to be in the Day of the Lord?
2. Record what 1 Timothy 4:1-3 teaches about this falling away.

3. ...and the man of sin is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3). What are some synonyms for the word *revealed*?
4. Using verses 3-10, describe the nature and activities of this *man of sin*.
  - a. What does Daniel 7:25 reveal about this man of sin?
5. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 parallels Daniel 11:36,37. What do these verses in Daniel teach us about this man of sin?
6. In this section of 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul uses the phrases *do you not remember, I told you, and you know*. Why do we sometimes forget what we have been taught?

### **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 – The Fate of the Deceived**

1. Verse 10 refers to those who perish. According to this verse, why will they experience this fate?
  - a. What could they have experienced if they had received *the love of the truth*?
    - 1.) For what purpose did God send His Son? John 3:17
2. What will God do to those who do *not receive the love of the truth*? 2 Thessalonians 2:11
  - a. What does Psalm 81:11,12 teach us about those who refuse God's truth?
3. Not only will these people refuse the love of the truth, 2 Thessalonians 2:12 reveals something else about them. What is it?
  - a. Record the sad words of Isaiah 66:4.

4. What did Jude remind us of in Jude 1:5?
5. Consider the fate of those who reject the truth. What are your thoughts?
6. List a few things you love about God's truth.

### **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14 – The Fortune of the Brethren**

1. Verse 13 begins with the glorious word *but*, contrasting the fate of the unbeliever with the destiny of the believer. What does Paul call these brethren?
  - a. What are some of the benefits of being *beloved by the Lord*?
2. Describe a person that is beloved.
  - a. What thoughts are provoked within you when you think about being God's beloved?
3. In contrast to those who do not receive the love of the truth, what does verse 13 declare about God's beloved?
4. According to verse 14, what is the believer called to *obtain*?
  - 1.) Express a few thoughts regarding these wonderful truths.

### **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 – Therefore**

1. In response to the contrast of the destiny of unbelievers and that of believers, Paul states his conclusion. How are we to walk because of our destiny?
2. Using synonyms, define *stand fast*.
  - a. What are some antonyms for *stand fast*?

3. What does 1 Corinthians 15:58 exhort regarding the call to *stand fast*?
4. Describe a life that:  
stands fast  
  
fails to stand fast
5. Using 2 Thessalonians 2:16, describe what God has done for the beloved.
6. What two prayer requests did Paul share in verse 17?
  - a. Describe the word *comfort* as you consider the times you have needed comfort in your life.
7. In verse 15, Paul commands to *stand fast*. In verse 17, he prays that God would *establish*. What is our part?
  - a. What is God's part?

## REVIEW:

1. How can deception cause a believer to be shaken in mind or troubled?
2. Share one thing that you have gleaned from this study of 2 Thessalonians 2.

*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*  
- 1 Corinthians 16:13

## Observation Worksheet

### 2 Thessalonians 2

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. <sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.