

2 Thessalonians 2

1. What does it mean to be IN God and IN Christ?

-This means that we are one with God the Father and one with Christ.

2. Why did God decide to choose us Christians to believe in Christ?

-So that He could save us from sin.

-So that He could share His holiness with us.

-So that He could be one with us.

3. For the true Christian, what does persecution do for us?

-Persecution pushes us closer to God.

-Persecution helps us to depend on God more and more.

-Persecution makes our faith grow more and more.

4. For the true Christian, can suffering destroy our faith?

-No.

5. For the true Christian, why can suffering not destroy our faith?

-Because when Christians are persecuted, Christ Himself protects our faith.

-Because of our Christ, it is impossible for even the greatest persecution to destroy our faith.

6. Why does God allow problems in our lives?

-God only allows problems in our lives for our good.

-God only allows problems in our lives to strengthen our faith.

-God only allows problems in our lives to make us like the Lord Jesus.

7. Will God strengthen our faith if we blame Him for our problems?

-No.

8. Will God strengthen our faith if we fight against our problems?

-No.

9. Will God strengthen our faith if we do not allow Him to help work out our problems?

-No.

10. If our faith is not growing, where are we going?

-We are going backwards.

11. Is it God who causes us to suffer?

-No.

-God is perfect.

-God has never had any sin nor will He ever have any sin.

-God only allows us to suffer.

12. Where is suffering from?

-Suffering is from Satan, from this world of sin, and from our flesh that wants to do that which hurts us.

13. To what does our suffering as Christians testify?

-That we are saved in Christ.

-In the second chapter of 2 Thessalonians, God through Paul writes this:

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1-Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,

2-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.

-What was the purpose for the second letter to the church at Thessalonica?

-Although Paul had already written about the Rapture and the final Day of the Lord in the first letter, the Christians were still afraid.

-The Christians in Thessalonica were afraid that they had missed being taken to heaven (the Rapture), and that they were living in the final Day of the Lord.

-In the fourth chapter of 1 Thessalonians, God and Paul wrote about the Rapture, that is, that Christians would meet Christ in the sky, and be taken to heaven.

-In the fifth chapter of Thessalonians, God and Paul wrote about the final Day of the Lord, that is, that the church would not be on earth because the final Day of the Lord is for non-Christians.

-The Christians in Thessalonica were still afraid because they were suffering much persecution.

-But they were also still afraid because of the false teachers who were teaching that the final Day of the Lord had already come.

-False teachers were using prophecy, teaching, and even writing letters in Paul's name to say that the final Day of the Lord had already come.

-The final Day of the Lord, however, cannot begin until after the Lord Jesus has taken the church to heaven.

-In the following verses, God and Paul teach us what must happen for the final Day of the Lord to begin.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3-Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

4-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.

-As we learn from the verse 3 above, the final Day of the Lord cannot begin until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed.

-Who is this man of lawlessness?

-He will be the most evil man ever to have lived on earth.

-He is the final Antichrist.

-The word "antichrist" means "against Christ" or "in place of Christ."

-The final Antichrist will fight against the true Christ, and try to take Christ's place as ruler of the world.

-In two of the apostle John's letters, he writes of many antichrists, but also of the final Antichrist.

-In 1 John 2:22, we learn that an antichrist is anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ:

-“Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.”

-In 1 John 2:18, we learn that although there are many antichrists, there will be one final Antichrist:

-“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.”

-While there are many antichrists who deny that Jesus is the Christ, there is only one final Antichrist.

-As we learn from verse 4 above, the final Antichrist will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped.

-The final Antichrist will tell the world that he is God, and will force everyone to worship him.

-Who will control the final Antichrist?

-Satan.

-The final Antichrist will rule the earth with the power of Satan.

-Why will Satan control the final Antichrist?

-Because Satan wants to stop Jesus from returning to earth to become the rightful king of the earth.

-Will the final Antichrist and Satan be able to stop Jesus from becoming the rightful king of the earth?

-No.

-Jesus has always been the rightful king of the earth, and Satan has no power except what God allows.

-It is true that the sin of Adam and Eve gave Satan temporary control of the hearts of all sinners.

-Yet it is also true that the Lord Jesus has always been and will always be the rightful king of the earth.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:5

5-Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

-When he was in Thessalonica, Paul had taught these truths to the Christians.

-Yet, because of the persecution and false teaching, the Christians needed to be reminded of the truth.

-Even if we have heard the Word of God many times, we still need to be reminded of the truth.

-This is because the Word of God is as deep and as eternal as our God Himself.

-The more we dig into the Word of God, the more gold we will find.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:6

6-And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

-Who is holding back Satan and the final Antichrist?
-God the Holy Spirit.

-Who alone is powerful enough to hold back Satan?
-God the Holy Spirit.

-Why is God the Holy Spirit holding back both Satan and the final Antichrist?

-Because God alone will decide the time for Satan and the final Antichrist.

-All that will happen in the future must happen according to God's time.

-Satan and the final Antichrist can do nothing without God's permission and according to God's time.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:7

7-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.

-We know that Satan is working in this world.

-We know that Satan is working through people who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-This is why there is so much evil in this world.

-If the Holy Spirit were not holding back Satan and evil, the world would be completely evil.

-One day, however, the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way, and the world will become completely evil.

-Does this mean that the Holy Spirit will be killed?

-No.

-The Holy Spirit is God, and God cannot be killed.

Does this mean that the Holy Spirit will be taken to heaven?

-No.

-The Holy Spirit is God, and God is everywhere.

-This only means that Holy Spirit will take Himself out of the way for a short time, and allow evil to be completely evil.

-After Christ was resurrected and returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to earth.

-Since being sent to earth by Christ, the Holy Spirit has been working in the lives of people.

-First, the Holy Spirit helps people to believe in Christ.

-Second, the Holy Spirit helps people to live a life of Christ.

-During the final Day of the Lord, the Holy Spirit will be taken out, and people will not be able to believe in Christ.

-During the final Day of the Lord, the Holy Spirit will be taken out, and Satan and evil will be allowed to be completely evil.

-Is there much evil in the world today?

-Yes.

-What will it be like when Satan and evil are allowed to be completely evil?

-The whole world will be completely full of a total evil which no one has ever seen before.

-In Matthew 24:21, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.”

-The time when Satan and evil will be allowed to be completely evil is called the tribulation.

-According to the Word of God, the tribulation will last seven years.

-At the end of the seven years of tribulation, what will happen?

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:8

8-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.

-Who will destroy the lawless one, the final Antichrist?
-The Lord Jesus.

-When will the Lord Jesus destroy this final Antichrist?

-At the end of the seven years of tribulation when Christ returns to earth.

-How will the Lord Jesus destroy this final Antichrist?
-By the breath of his mouth.

-The breath and the words of the Lord Jesus Christ are all powerful.

-By His words alone, the Lord Jesus created the heavens and the earth.

-By His words alone, the Lord Jesus created the fish in the sea and the birds in the air.

-By His words alone, the Lord Jesus created the sun, the moon, the stars, and all of the animals.

-Will Satan or the final Antichrist or anyone else be able to fight against the Lord Jesus when He returns to earth?
-No.

-With the splendor of His coming, the Lord Jesus will destroy the final Antichrist.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10a

9-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,

10-and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.

-In these verses, we learn that the lawless one, the final Antichrist will have the power of Satan.

-The final Antichrist will have the power of Satan to do miracles, signs, and wonders.

-We know that Satan has no power except the power that God Himself allows.

-At this time, God will allow Satan and the final Antichrist to have power which will cause people to think that the Antichrist is God.

-All who do not believe in Christ will see the miracles, signs, and wonders and believe that the Antichrist is God.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12

10-They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

11-For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

12-and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

-Why do non Christians die?

-Because they refuse to love the truth and be saved.

-Even though the light of Christ has come into the world, people choose to live in darkness.

-Even though the righteousness of Christ has come into the world, people choose to love their sin.

-Even though the truths of Christ have come into the world, people choose to believe the lies of Satan.

-Those who choose to live in darkness and sin will be trapped by darkness and sin.

-Those who choose to live in lies and evil will be trapped by lies and evil.

-As it is written in Proverbs 5:22:

-“The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast.”

-Those who continue to reject the truth will no longer be able to believe the truth, for God will harden their hearts

-It was because Pharaoh hardened his heart against God that God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

-When people continue to reject the truth, God will give them over to the sinful desires of their hearts.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

13-But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

14-He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

-For all Christians, God chose us to be saved because He loves us.

-Does this mean that God does not love non Christians?
-No.

-While God loves all people and wants everyone to be saved, not everyone wants to be saved.

-While God loves all people and wants everyone to be saved, we Christians are able to understand His love for us.

-As we Christians are able to understand our God's love for us, this helps us to love Him.

-Because God loves us, He also wants to share His glory with us.

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:15

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

-For us Christians, it is easy to listen to a teaching about God.

-But it is more difficult to stand firm and hold fast to the teachings.

-What must we do to stand firm and hold fast to the teachings of God?

-We must ask God to help us to remember His truths.

-We must also continue to study His truths so that His truths will become more and more a part of our lives.

-The world, our flesh, and Satan do not want us to remember or even think about God's truths.

-This is because God's truths alone can change our lives for the better.

-We can have a good job or much money in this life on earth, but none of this will change our souls for the better.

-Only learning and remembering the truths of God can change our lives for the better.

-Finally, here are the last words in the letter of 2 Thessalonians:

Let's read 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

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

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

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

-For us Christians, we have the peace of God.

-For us Christians, we have the grace of God.

-For us Christians, God is with us.