

Writer: (Vs. 1) The Apostle Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheous.

Written to: (Vs. 1) The church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Date of Writing: AD 51, shortly after sending 1st Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 | Paul's Comfort That They Are Not in the Tribulation

Verse 1–

The Thessalonians have been under persecution ever since Paul left them about a year before. In chapter one he tried to comfort them by reminding them that the Lord Jesus would one day take vengeance on those who were not obeying the gospel and persecuting this new church. Paul prayed for them, that the Lord Jesus Christ would be glorified in them, and that they too would be glorified in Christ--meaning that they would hold Jesus Christ in high esteem.

Now, Paul says, **I beseech you**. The word beseech means to "pray for" or "desire", "urge", or "intreat." *That ye be not soon shaken in mind (vs. 2).*

Paul's desire is they remember the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**.. In [1st Thessalonians 2:19](#) Paul wrote, *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?* At the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ the Thessalonians would be Paul's *glory and joy*.

Our gathering together unto him points back to [1st Thessalonians 4:16,17](#), and the Rapture of the Body of Christ. All those in the Body of Christ will meet him in the air and be together with him. Verse 1, **our gathering**, is reminder of the Rapture.

Verse 2–

Not soon shaken of mind, or be troubled. Something was causing distress among the church in Thessalonica; in their **spirit**, or by a **word** spoken by someone, or a forged **letter** addressed **from Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheous**.

Someone was spreading fake news and it had infected the entire church.

That the day of Christ is at hand. The forged letter stated that the Tribulation has already begun. The believers thought they were in the actual Tribulation period. Fake news is nothing new. Throughout history there have always been those who have sought to corrupt the truth.

The first corruption and forgery of God's word happened long before the Bible was even written; In the Garden of Eden where Satan brought doubt and confusion into the mind of Eve by questioning God's commandments: [Genesis 3:1](#): "...Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Paul even refers to the corruption of the word of God in other places.

[2 Corinthians 2:17](#): *"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God..."*

As we see in verse 2, this would have been both verbally, **by word** as well as written form.

There is no telling what was the exact content of the forged letter, but it is clear it contained false teachings because in verse 3 Paul writes, **Let no man deceive you by any means.**

Because of the potential of forged letters, Paul signed many of the epistles he wrote: [2 Thess. 3:17](#); [Gal. 6:11](#); [Philemon 1:19](#). Another place where Paul mentions potential forgery or corruption is in [2 Corinthians 4:2](#), "*Not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully...*"

Today people try to corrupt the word of God. The Jehovah's Witnesses New World Translation is one example. But the biggest corruption of God's word may come from the world of scholarship--those who claim to be correcting the word of God are actually corrupting it (that is a study for another day).

So were they in the Tribulation? Obviously not, but Paul gives them the answer in verse 3.

Verse 3–

Let no man deceive you by any means. Man can and will try and deceive us. In this case trying to make the Thessalonians believe they were in the Tribulation. How could they know if they were in the Tribulation or not? How can we know? Paul tells us, **for that day shall not come except...**

Two things that will happen first before the Tribulation will begin.

1. **Except there come a falling away first.**

The Greek word for **falling away** is **ἀποστασία** *apostasia*. We get our word *apostasy* from it and today that word means *the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief*. The Greek is a compound word, which means the whole word is created by combining two words. In this case, the Greek preposition **απο**, or *apo*, which means "away from." Then, the Greek word, **ἵστημι**, or *histemi*, "to stand." Together, *apohistemi*, *to stand away from*. There are two options we can use to interpret the phrase **falling away**.

Option 1: Apostasy is a spiritual departure from sound doctrine. This is referring to an apostasy that will come. This is the most accepted view. Those who hold it say that in the last days there will be a falling away from sound doctrine. We can see that happening even today. Yet, if we look at history there have been many *spiritual departures* from sound doctrine. Today's *apostasy* is really nothing new. It would appear that apostasies come, and then revival takes place and sound doctrine rules the day. Therefore, it seems like it would be difficult to make a case that a *spiritual departure from sound doctrine* is what Paul is referring to here, because that type of **falling away** has always been with us. In fact, in Paul's final letter, he mentions a spiritual departure in [2 Timothy 1:15](#). It is a rather sad passage.

Option 2: The view I propose is that **falling away**, *apostasia* is not referring to a spiritual departure, but a physical departure. Again, the noun *apostasia* simply means "to stand away from" or "to depart." The question is depart from what? The context helps

us understand. The larger context of both letters to the Thessalonians pertain to the return of Christ. Therefore, *apostasia* could mean a departure from this earth, i.e., the Rapture (1 [Thess. 4:16,17](#)). I think it does. The immediate context favors this option. In verse one Paul spoke of *our gathering together unto him*. The Tribulation cannot begin until the Church (the Body of Christ) is first removed and there is a **our gathering together unto him**.

That is the clearest interpretation because it sets the world up for the next event that precedes the Tribulation.

2. That the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

That is, the antichrist will rise to power and *confirm a covenant* (with Israel) for seven years (Daniel 9:27). It should be noted that it is not the Rapture which begins the seven year Tribulation, but the covenant made with Israel by Antichrist.

Verse 4–

Paul describes the Antichrist:

1. **Who opposeth God.**
2. **Who exalteth himself above all...that is worshipped.**
3. **Sitting in the temple of God** as if he **himself is God** (Daniel 9:27; 12:11; Matthew 24:15).

This probably means he is going to exalt himself as the God of the world. And he will imitate the True God by making is throne in **the temple of God** that will be in Jerusalem (the abomination of desolation: *hatred, emptiness, and destruction*).

Verse 5–

Remember...I told you these things? Someone once said, people don't need to hear new things every week, they just need to be reminded.

Verse 6–

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. What is keeping the Antichrist from being revealed now? 1. It is the presence of the Body of Christ.

Verse 7–

The antichrist cannot come into power until **he who now letteth...until he be taken out of the way**. Who is **he**? I believe is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit resides within the Body of Christ. 2. Once the Body of Christ is Raptured the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way of the antichrist and he will rise to power.

Verse 8–

In 8-11 Paul describes the Tribulation.

][The wicked be revealed. Once the Body of Christ is removed, along with the Holy Spirit, the antichrist be revealed. But make no mistake, at the day of the Lord's return (at the end of the 7-year Tribulation) He **shall consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.** (Revelation 19:11-20).

Verse 9–

Yes, this is the one Jesus Christ will destroy, the one **whose coming is after the working of Satan...power...signs...lying wonders** (Revelation 13:1-7).

Verse 10–

Deceivableness...them that perish...received not the truth, that they might be saved (Revelation 13:8).

Verse 11–

During the Tribulation there will be a **strong delusion** sent by **God, that they should believe the lie.** In the last days people will easily believe lies (1 Timothy 4:1,2). This is why the Scripture says, "Behold, now is the day of salvation." [2 Corinthians 6:2](#).

Verse 12–

Salvation comes only through belief, not works. It will be extremely difficult to believe the truth during the Tribulation. Those who do not are **damned** because they already **had pleasure in unrighteousness.** (Romans 1:18-32).

Verse 13, 14–

From the beginning **God hath chosen you** (*The "you" is plural: that is, the nation of Israel*) **to salvation** (This is national salvation; not individual salvation which comes by grace through faith, Ephesians 2:8,9). That has always been God's desire that his chosen nation of people would be saved.

God has **called his nation by our** (Paul's) **gospel.**

Verse 15–

Stand fast. He is referring back to verse 2, *not be soon shaken.*

Hold the traditions which ye have been taught. Don't fall into the trap of believing new teachings--put your trust into what we have taught you.

Whether by word, or our epistle. By what we told you face to face, or by what we (Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheous) have written (that is, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians).

Verses 16,17–

Paul's prayer and comfort for them.