

## Members' Handout - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Series: 1-2 Thessalonians



*These CG Resources are meant to help our CGs facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Refer to the Summary, Fallen Condition and Good News sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the text notes on the passage.*

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### Big Idea & Takeaway

To correct false teachings, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that before Jesus returns, persecution and rebellion against God will intensify. Therefore, Paul comforts the Thessalonians by affirming them in their salvation and calling, and encourages them to continue to stand firm and work out their salvation, so that they will not be deceived by false teaching or the sinful ways of the world.

### Fallen Condition Focus

Listening to worldly voices instead of God's word concerning the end times, and therefore becoming deceived and falling away from what we were taught: either being unsettled and anxious by obsessing over the end times, or not giving it the right attention and living rightly

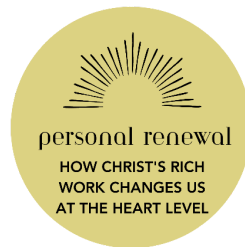
### Gospel Connection

*How Christ's work enables and empowers our response*

Jesus has promised to return to gather those who have held fast to Him and His gospel, therefore, our hope against persecution and our ultimate deliverance should be in Him.

### Drawing Near to God

Draw near to God, thanking Him for our election and salvation, and ask Him to help us stand firm in the truth and live rightly in light of our hope.



## Interpretation

1. What might the Thessalonians have falsely believed in (v1-3)?
2. What could have tempted them to believe in these false teachings (v1-3)?
3. What does Paul say must happen before Jesus' return (v3-10)?
4. How did Paul encourage the Thessalonians to live in response to his correction (v13-15)?

## Fallen Condition

5. This passage points out two ways that we might be deceived concerning living in light of Jesus' return:
  - Becoming fearful or unsettled by sensational or alarming voices in the world about the end times (media, culture, fringe theology) (v3)
  - Not being vigilant and guarding ourselves against worldly teachings or ideologies that are part of the fallen/sinful world ("the mystery of lawlessness") (v11-12)

Which of the above are we more prone to being deceived by?

## Personal Renewal

6. Consider what Paul says will happen when Christ returns. How might this passage speak to our fears or apathy about the end times?

## Response

*The goal of our Bible studies is not to simply gather intellectual facts about God or change our behaviour, but to deepen our relationship with Him. Jesus says that this is eternal life – to know Him personally (John 3:17). Thus, we want to set aside a portion of time in our session for us to draw near to God, bringing all that we have discussed to Him and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us into deeper worship and love for Him.*

7. Read v13-17. On our own, spend 10 minutes drawing near to Jesus, meditating on the truth that we are "beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth," Ask the Spirit to impress this truth on our hearts, that it might:
  - Encourage us to stand firm and hold on to God's word and the gospel
  - Give us "eternal comfort and good hope through grace" and "comfort our hearts"
  - Establish us "in every good work and word"
8. In pairs or threes, come together and share how your time of prayer was. Share about how the truth of God's love for us and our eternal comfort from the gospel are precious to us, and how we can help each other stand firm and live rightly in light of this eternal comfort.