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ΜΩΝ ΑΛΛΑ ΦΟΙ ΚΛΩ
ΣΑ ΣΙΟΝ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΟΤΙ
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ΜΕΘ' ΥΜΩΝ ΕΝ ΤΗ
ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΕΙ ΤΩ

2nd Thessalonians

ΟΤΙΣ ΑΝ ΜΗ ΕΛΘΗ
ΑΠΟ ΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΠΡΩΤ
ΚΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΚΑΛΥΨΘΗ
Ο ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΤΗ
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Overview

- Author(s): Paul, Silas, and Timothy (1:1)
 - Paul gives his “signature” at the end of letter 3:17
- Date
 - Very Shortly after 1 Thessalonians (50-52 AD)
- Purpose (s)
 - Clarify confusion about Christ’s 2nd coming (2:1-3)
 - Living disciplined lives/undisciplined brethren (3:11)

Outline

- Greeting 1:1-2
- Thanksgiving, Encouragement, and Prayer 1:3-12
- The Man of Lawlessness 2:1-12
- Thanksgiving, Exhortation, and Prayer 2:13-17
- Dealing with Undisciplined Brethren 3:1-15
- Conclusion 3:16-17

2 Thessalonians 1

What does Paul say about the Thessalonians' faith? Why is Paul able to say this about them?

- “Increasing abundantly” (1:3)
- Paul was able to “speak proudly of them” to other churches (1:4)
- Their love for each other was growing as well
- They were enduring persecution and affliction for the Kingdom of God

2 Thessalonians 1

What reason does Paul give for persecutions and afflictions the Thessalonians were enduring?

- Vs 5- “This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering.”
- Similar language is used elsewhere about suffering for Christ
 - Acts 5:41
 - 1 Peter 1:7
 - 1 Peter 4:12-18
 - Hebrews 12:4-6

2 Thessalonians 1

What does Paul say will happen to those inflicting persecution on these Christians?

- God will repay the affliction they had dealt on them, God will give relief to those who are persecuted (6-7)
- God will deal retribution to those who do not know God or obey the Gospel of Jesus (8)
- Eternal punishment awaits these people (9)

2 Thessalonians 1

What does this say about how we should view those who persecute Christians? How do we balance this with Romans 12:14?

- God is handling the punishment- not us. We are not to resist evil people (Matthew 5:38-42)
- We want all *individuals* to be saved- just as God does (1 Timothy 2:3-4; Matthew 28:19-20)
- However, there is a place where it is appropriate to take comfort in God's coming judgement against evil

2 Thessalonians 1

Why does Paul pray for the Thessalonians in vs 11?

- That God would consider them worthy of their calling and fulfill every desire for goodness
- That Jesus would be glorified in them, and them in Christ.
- The Thessalonians were praise for their faith in vs 3, but Paul prayed that they would maintain this faith. They could lose it if they were not diligent.

2 Thessalonians 2

Which topic from 1 Thessalonians does Paul bring up again at the beginning of chapter 2? Why did he feel the need to address it again?

- 2nd Coming of Jesus
- The Thessalonians were “shaken” with concern they had missed the day of the Lord.
 - Vs 2 seems to imply a false letter had been given to them (“a message, or a letter as if from us”. NET- “..letter *allegedly* from us”
- Paul will go on to clarify that they had not missed it, and that certain events need to take place before the Lord returns.

2 Thessalonians 2

What does Paul say must happen before Jesus' return?

- Apostasy
- Man of Lawlessness/Son of Destruction revealed
- Paul reminds the Thessalonians that he had revealed these things to them while he was with them.

2 Thessalonians 2

What will the man of lawlessness do? What will ultimately happen to him?

- Exalt himself above every object of worship, take the seat in the temple of God.
- Comes in accord with the activity of Satan
- Perform false signs and wonders
- Deceive those who take pleasure in wickedness
- The Lord will eliminate him with “breath of his mouth” at His coming.

2 Thessalonians 2

Brief Possibilities of this Apostasy /Man of Lawlessness

- Catholic Church/Papacy?
 - Fits the bill as major apostasy
 - The pope would fit taking “the seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God”
 - False/signs wonders
 - Catholic Church wasn’t organized until 2nd century at the earliest- does this fit with the Thessalonians “knowing what restrains him now” in ~50 AD?
- Roman Empire/Emperor Worship?
 - Fits major apostasy
 - The Caesars viewed themselves as God
 - At least some Caesars were claimed to have done miracles
 - Roman empire fell ~476 AD. The lawless one is to be removed at Jesus’ coming (vs 8)
- General apostasy?
 - Some take Paul to be talking about the major apostasy that would occur in the coming years after this, and that the “man of lawlessness” is a general term for false teachers
 - Specific enough?
- Other?