

March 30, 2025

God's Good News Story–The Church Alive & Growing

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3:5

Confusion About the Future

God's Good News Story - "The Church Alive & Growing" is our ongoing multi-year sermon series where we are working our way chronologically, historically, and missionally through the New Testament. Our goal is to have a clearer understanding of what the Bible says about the 1st Century church and its' growth, principles and lessons that we can learn from to keep the Church Alive & Growing in the 21st Century.

Today we continue our study of Paul's 2nd Letter to the Thessalonians. FAITH HOPE LOVE

SLIDE

2 THESSALONIANS: STANDING FIRM WHEN YOUR WORLD IS SHAKEN

This is the 53^d book of the Bible, 14^h in the New Testament and is one of 13 Books written by the Apostle Paul shortly after the 1st Letter @51AD.

Three Things That Were Shaking the World of the 1st Century Church

OPPOSITION FROM THE WORLD <i>Chapter 1</i>	CONFUSION ABOUT THE FUTURE <i>Chapter 2</i>	CARELESSNESS IN RESPONSIBILITY <i>Chapter 3</i>
Trouble From the Outside	Trouble From the Inside	
Persevere in Faith	Hope in God's Word	Behave in Godly Love
Encourage the Troubled	Enlighten the Confused	Warn the Careless
Commendation: For their persevering testimony of faith	Challenge: To stand firm against falsehood.	Command: To work faithfully until Jesus Christ comes.

Key Verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:5

May The Lord Direct Your Hearts Into The Love Of God And

Into The Steadfastness Of Christ . (preachingtoday.com/W. Wiersbe

SLIDE

Confusion About the Future

Chapter 2

Trouble From the Inside

Hope in God's Truth

Enlighten the Confused

Challenge: Stand Firm Against Falsehood

2 Thess. 2:1-3:5... Paul Gives 5 Challenges

1. Listen to the Truth (2 Thess. 2:1-12)
2. Believe the Truth (2. Thess. 2:13-14)
3. Guard the Truth (2 Thess. 2:15)
4. Practice the Truth (2 Thess. 2:16,17)
5. Share the Truth (2 Thess. 3:1-5)

➤ **Listen to the Truth** (2 Thess. 2:1-12)

The overall idea that God wants us to listen to His truth and not the false, lawless things of this world.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3... ¹Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit, or a message, or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (Point: False teaching robs us of peace)

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

(Point: False Teaching ruins our perspective)

⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the TRUTH so as to be saved.

(Point: The Antichrist is coming and rebellion will intensify)

¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the TRUTH but took pleasure in wickedness.

(Point: God is in control. The Antichrist will be defeated, and the rebellious will be judged)

➤ **Believe the Truth** (2. Thess. 2:13-14)

¹³ But we must always thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the TRUTH.

(Point: God loves and chooses to save those who listen & believe His truth.)

¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, so that you might obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Point: God calls us through the truth of the Gospel {Good News of Christ} to be sanctified and obtain glory)

➤ **Guard the Truth** (2 Thess. 2:15)

¹⁵ Confusion About the Future

(Point: God's people must listen, believe & guard {hold firm} to the truth.

<3862> παράδοσις *paradosis*. **Meaning:** a handing down or over, a tradition. **Usage:** tradition(9), traditions(4).

This verse reminds us of Paul's words in the 1st Chapter. Standing Firm and holding to the teachings of the Bible which Paul, Silas & Timothy had delivered to them. The 1st Century Church made a choice to hold to the truth taught them in God's Word. They did not let the popular ideas and secular teachings that was all around them influence or contaminate the Truth of God's Word.

➤ **Practice the Truth** (2 Thess. 2:16,17)

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts & strengthen you in every good WORK & WORD.

(Point: Not only do we need to listen, believe & guard truth and keep it pure, but we must also put it into daily practice.)

The 1st Century Church was a Bible believing, Bible practicing body of believers. This practice is part of the reason that the Church was Alive & Growing, even in the midst of great persecution and false teachings. I think we in the 21st Century Church should emulate this practice of working out our faith in actions as well as in Word.

➤ **Share the Truth** (2 Thess. 3:1-5)

¹ Finally, brothers, pray for us that the LORD'S MESSAGE MAY SPREAD rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you, ² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful; He will strengthen and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do what we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance.

(Point: We must listen, believe, guard, practice and also SHARE the truth.)

It can be tempting to just be satisfied with spiritual walk, when we are faithful to know truth and hold it firmly and even practice it in our daily lives. But, in order for the Church to keep Alive & Growing, we must actively and

consistently SHARE the TRUTH. All people need to see, hear and be shown the TRUTH of the Good News Story of Christ.

Listen to what Paul later writes to the Church in Rome **Romans 10:10-14**...¹⁰ *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.* ¹¹ *As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced."* ¹² *Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on Him.* ¹³ *For "Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved."* ¹⁴ *But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?* ¹⁵ *And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"*

Take Away: There is no excuse for being confused about either your present calling or your future condition. The truth is that God is on control and if we Listen, Believe, Guard, Practice & Share the Truth of the Good News Story, we will find ourselves Standing Firm, Staying Faithful & Bringing Glory to God!

Let's Clear up to confusion once and for all.

Bottom Line:

Team God - Victory

Team Satan - Defeated

{Who's Team are you on?}