

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview of 2 Thessalonians</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Thessalonian Christians seem to have worried that the day of the Lord had already come; yet, they continued to live in ignorance. If this were true, then, they would have been left without hope; those who suffered under oppression and injustice would never have had the opportunity to be redressed. • In order to address such confusion, Paul explains that two things must take the day of the Lord: (1) “a great apostasy” and (2) “the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction” (2:3). • Paul’s teaching about the end times, deemed as the focus of 2Th, recalls the enduring scriptural traditions that are intimately connected to all of us who are living in the “end times”. In this BSP session, we will delve deeper into this teaching. 	
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Clarifying the Confusing About the Day of the Lord</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachings about the coming of Christ, “parousia”, can be found in the notes of BSP # 6 & 7, 1Th, chapters 4 and 5. As in 1Th, Paul links Jesus’ return to the faithful being gathered to him. Paul advises the Thessalonians not to be deceived by false teachings that the “parousia” has already happened: leading only to despair. 	<p>2:1-2</p> <p>2:1-2, CCSS, 2Macc 2:7, Mk 13:27, Lk 17:20-21, Tim 2:18</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><u>Events Presaging the Day of the Lord</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present, a “restraining power” is restraining “the lawless one”, preventing him from doing evil. However, the “mystery of lawlessness” is already at work in this world, and eventually the restraining power will be removed. • After the restraining power is removed, “the apostasy” will take place and the lawless one will be revealed. “... who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god and object of worship, so as to seat himself in the temple of God, claiming that he is god”. Aided by the power of Satan, he will do mighty deeds that deceive many people. God; however, allows this deception to take place so that “all who have not believed the truth but have approved wrongdoing may be condemned”. 	<p>2:3-12, CCSS</p> <p>2:6-7</p> <p>2:3-4, 9-12</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Jesus returns, He will “kill with the breath of his mouth” the lawless one. 	2:8 CCSS, Rev 19:15, Is 11:4
D	<p><u>A Closer Look At the Apostasy and the Lawless One</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Apostasy” means rebelling against all human and divine power and directions. “The lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction”: Paul has not specified the sequence of events that will take place; however, he is clear about how both events must take place prior to Jesus’ coming. “The one who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god and object of worship so as to seat himself in the temple of God, claiming that he is god” – due to his arrogance, making himself like Christ or God, he is known as “anti-Christ” or “anti-God”. Similar figures have already made appearances throughout the Bible; all these prefigure the “lawless one” who is exceptionally wicked and will replace the true God. The “one whose coming springs from the power of Satan in every mighty deed and in signs and wonders that lie” only brings deception to the world. People perish because “they have not accepted the love of truth”. Who is the “lawless one”? A historical figure? All who opposes Christ/God and demands from everyone loyalty owed only to God? 	<p>2:3-4 CCSS, Mt 24:3-13, 1Tim 4:1, 2Tim :1-5</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>2:4 CCSS</p> <p>Dan 11:36-38, 1Macc 1:41-61, Gen 3:5, Is 14:14, Mt 24:14-15</p> <p>2:9-10</p> <p>CCSS 172, 1Jn 2:8, SN1</p>
E	<p><u>Is Jesus the One Who Will Prevent the Appearance of the Lawless One?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything that will take place on the last day is according to God’s plan. Some predictions include: Rome; the Gospel will be spread throughout the entire world; to provide warnings; denial; supernatural power (angels). 	<p>2:6-7 CCSS</p> <p>Mk 13:32, Titus 1:3</p> <p>Mt 24:1, Dan 12:1, Rev 20:1-3</p>

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F	<p><u>Hold Fast to the Apostolic Traditions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent any future confusion, Paul affirms them to “hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours”. For Paul, the teachings from the Apostles are teachings from God; be it oral statement or letters. 	<p>2:13-17</p> <p>2:15 CCSS 1Th 2:13, 1Cor 11:23, 15:3</p>
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Special Notes:

1. Before Christ’s second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the “mystery of iniquity” in the form of religious deception offering men and apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and his Messiah come in flesh. The Antichrist’s deception already begins to take shape in the world every time the claim is made to realize within history that messianic hope which can only be realized beyond history through the eschatological judgment.
(CCC 675-6)