

Lesson Five – Overview of 2 Thessalonians

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Reviewed Questions:

The three major sections in 2 Thessalonians are:

1. Why is Second Thessalonians so important?

(b) Paul explained to them that this future time of tribulation had not yet come because a certain “man of lawlessness” had not yet been revealed (2 Thes. 2:3). Comparisons with other passages in Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation reveal this man to be none other than the Antichrist. But Paul encouraged the Thessalonians not to worry, because the Antichrist would not come until a mysterious restrainer—the Thessalonians apparently knew his identity—was removed from earth (2:6–7). The identity of this restrainer has been heavily debated, though due to the nature of the work the restrainer does. He is likely the Spirit of God working redemptively through the church. When the believers leave the earth in the rapture, all who remain will experience the wrath of the tribulation.

2. What’s the big idea?

(b) The apostle Paul, in concern for the Thessalonian believers who were trying to stand firm in their faith under pressure from false teachers, taught the Thessalonians in this letter that their hope in Christ’s future return should serve as an encouragement to them in their suffering, motivating them to live responsibly for Him.

3. How do I apply this?

(b) Discipline and self-control are two qualities that quickly slip away in a society so focused on the material that its people forget the spiritual realities that should dictate their lives. Paul knew that hope in Christ would encourage perseverance in godly living and hope is exactly what we lack today, one of the great roots of this gradual slip into increased self-centeredness.

4. According to Swindoll, God will win and those who are saved will be with him throughout eternity and those who reject his truth will die and will face a conscious eternity in hell forever.