

The Book of 2 Thessalonians

16

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we are looking at the second section of **2 Thessalonians** – **chapter 2** – which can be divided into two subsections:

- Paul's correction of error regarding the return of Christ - **2:1-12**
- Paul's encouragement to stand firm - **2:13-17**

Paul's main purpose in the section is to allay fears that Christ had already returned. This was despite the fact that in his first letter Paul had clearly told the Thessalonians that Christ's return would *not* be like a thief in the night for them, since they were not in darkness (**1 Thessalonians 5:4-11**).

It is important to remember that in the first century people did not have the convenience of instant news reports like we do today. News travelled slowly, generally by word of mouth or by letter. Somebody, either in the Thessalonian church or a visitor, had started the false report that Christ had already returned and was now in Judea. That person had even gone to the trouble of concocting a letter or claiming to have received a letter, purportedly from Paul himself.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- How does **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5** relate to **1 Thessalonians 5:4-11**?
- What must happen before the return of Christ? (**2:3-4**).
- When will the lawless one be revealed? (**2:7-8**).
- What will happen when the lawless one is revealed? (**2:8-12**).
- Why does God send those who refuse to love the truth "a powerful delusion"? (**2:11-12**).

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

- Why does Paul always thank God concerning the Thessalonians? (**2:13-14**).
- How does **2:13** relate to **2:10-12**?
- God had called the Thessalonians to what, through what, to share in what? (**2:14**).
- How does **2:15** relate to **2:1-2**?

Memory Verse

But we ought always to thank God for you,
brothers loved by the Lord, because from
the beginning God chose you to be saved
through the sanctifying work of the Spirit
and through belief in the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!