

## 2 Thessalonians: *The Day of the Lord*

### Introduction

**I. The Author**—The Apostle Paul.

**II. The Audience**—While still at Corinth, shortly after writing 1 Thessalonians, Paul received more news about the condition of the church at Thessalonica. The report Paul received contained both favorable and unfavorable elements. Paul rejoiced that they were growing in faith and love (1:3) and were remaining steadfast under persecution (1:4). However, some extreme ideas concerning the Day of the Lord had taken root in the church, and these erroneous ideas were producing disturbing results in the church. The core of the false teaching was that the Day of the Lord had already arrived. With Silas and Timothy at his side, Paul wrote this second letter to the church probably about two or three months after 1 Thessalonians.

**III. The Aim**—The *primary purpose* for this epistle was to correct a wrong understanding concerning the Day of the Lord. False teachers taught that the Day of the Lord was present (2:1). The *second purpose* was to correct disorderliness in the church. Some believed they could leave their jobs because the coming of the Lord was so near (3:6-16). A *third purpose* was to comfort and encourage them to remain steadfast under persecution (1:4-12).

### IV. The Arrangement—

I.	A Word of Comfort (1)	Pastoral	<i>The Revelation of Christ</i>
II.	A Word of Caution (2)	Prophetic	<i>The Rebellion of Antichrist</i>
III.	A Word of Command (3)	Practical	<i>The Responsibility of Christians</i>

### V. The Analysis

<b><u>1 Thessalonians</u></b>	<b><u>2 Thessalonians</u></b>
Coming of the Lord in the air <i>for</i> His saints	Coming of the Lord to earth <i>with</i> His saints
Coming of Christ	Coming of Antichrist
Word of Comfort	Word of Correction

40% of 2 Thessalonians deals with prophecy (19 of 47 verses)

3 main groups are addressed in this epistle:

1. Persecutors of the church (chapter 1)
2. False Teachers (chapter 2)
3. Idle church members (chapter 3)

Each chapter ends with a prayer:

1. Prayer for Power (1:11-12)
2. Prayer for Strength (2:16-17)
3. Prayer for Peace (3:16-17)

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## **VI. The Application**