

THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

2 Thessalonians 2

INTO THE TOPIC (OPENING):

At what stage in life were you "rebellious?" What memory (painful or humorous) is associated with those times of conflict?

INTO THE WORD (STUDY):

- What must have been happening in Thessalonica to lead Paul to write these words?
- How much time was Paul able to spend with the Thessalonians (see Acts 17:2)? How would this affect their willingness to believe rumors about Christ's return (v. 2)?
- Whom do you think is the restrainer of this lawless one (vv. 6-7)? How do you think this "restraining order" is enforced?
- What is God's ultimate purpose in allowing the "man of lawlessness" to deceive people? What signs mark his appearing?
- How will those who refuse Christ respond to this "man?" How does the "powerful delusion" sent by God differ from the deceptive evil of this "man" (vv 10-12)?
- How and why will God save his people (vv. 13-14)? In response to God's initiative and Paul's ministry, what are the people to do?

Think Q.U.E.S.T.: *Do you still have a lingering **QUESTION**? What is particularly **UNEASY** for you or catches your attention? Is there an **EXHORTATION** or command in this passage? What is the **SETTING** (historical/cultural/linguistic context)? Is there a **TRUTH** to grasp?*

INTO MY LIFE (APPLICATION):

- How does this passage on Christ's Second Coming, and what will precede it, make you feel? Afraid? Relieved? Rather not think about it? Why? How do you think Paul would've want you to feel?
- What encouragement do verses 13-14 give you as you face hard times? Where do you need encouragement and strength from God now?
- How do you feel about the punishment mentioned in verses 8-9? How might you if you were being severely oppressed?