

# GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SIX

## LETTERS TO GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF ROMANS–PHILEMON

### 2 THESSALONIANS: CHRIST'S COMING . . . MY RESPONSE

#### A SURVEY OF 2 THESSALONIANS



### The Heart of the Matter

This little letter may be small in size and may appear to be rather innocuous, but it is both concentrated and potent. Written to correct a misunderstanding regarding the Lord's return, it not only clarifies some issues regarding prophecy but it also deals with several current matters of great practical value. Within these forty-seven verses, we find such helpful insights as the purpose of persecution as well as the importance of diligence, Bible study, personal discipline, minding our own business, and choosing the right companions. As we explore this letter, let's be sensitive to what God is saying to us—as it relates both to His prophetic plan and to His practical advice. Both are of equal importance.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Brief Bit of Background (2 Thessalonians 2:1–2; 3:6–15)

Learn about the writer of 2 Thessalonians, about his reason for writing, and about the letter's recipients.

#### 2. An Overview of the Letter (2 Thessalonians 1:3–4, 11–12; 2:1–17; 3:1–5, 10–13)

Paul wrote about pain and affliction in chapter 1. He taught about prophecy and corrected errors in chapter 2. And he encouraged perseverance in chapter 3.

#### 3. A Few Enduring Truths

Persevering through affliction develops maturity. Trusting amidst confusion reveals stability. Waiting with discipline cultivates responsibility.

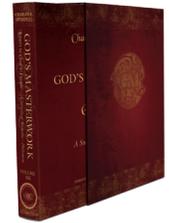


### Starting Your Journey

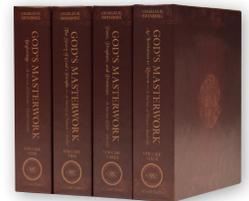
Read through 2 Thessalonians and examine your response to suffering, your faith in the midst of trials, and your personal obedience as you look for Jesus Christ's return.



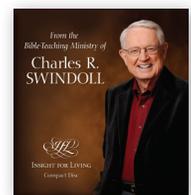
### Tools for Digging Deeper



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## SECOND THESSALONIANS

	<b>Affirmation amidst Affliction</b>	<b>Explanation of Prophecy</b>	<b>Clarification regarding Response</b>
	<p>“We ought always to give thanks to God for you.” (1:3)</p> <p>“We . . . speak proudly of you . . . for your perseverance and faith.” (1:4)</p> <p>“We pray for you always.” (1:11)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAPTER 1</i></p>	<p>“Let no one in any way deceive you.” (2:3)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secret power of lawlessness</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Restraint removed</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Man of lawlessness</p> <p>“So then . . . stand firm.” (2:15)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAPTER 2</i></p>	<p>“We command you.” (3:6)</p> <p>“If anyone does not obey” (3:14)</p> <p>“May the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace.” (3:16)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAPTER 3</i></p>
<b>Question</b>	Why are we suffering?	What will occur?	How do I respond?
<b>Contrasts</b>	Peace amidst pain	Lawlessness versus restraint	Work while waiting
<b>Statement</b>	The Lord knows!	The “day of the Lord” has not yet come!	“Do not grow weary of doing good.” (3:13)
<b>Emphasis</b>	Commendation	Correction	Clarification
<b>Theme</b>	The hope of Christ's return encourages us in our suffering and motivates us to live responsibly for Him.		
<b>Key Verses</b>	1:11–12; 2:13–15		
<b>Christ in 2 Thessalonians</b>	Jesus is the coming Judge who will reward the righteous and destroy the wicked, including the coming man of lawlessness in the end times (1:6–2:12).		

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