

2 Thessalonians Chapter 2

1. Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

A. Now,

B. brethren- Gr. adelphos

C. concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

1. coming- Gr. parousia

a. The coming or parousia of the Lord commences with the rapture of the church and ends with His Second Advent after the Tribulation.

2. gathering together- Gr. episunagoge

a. The rapture will be the gathering together of all the church- those who have died and those who are believers who are alive when Jesus returns.

b. This gathering together of church age believers will kick off the parousia of the Lord and the Tribulation Period.

c. The Rapture of the church [the beginning of the Parousia] and the Second Advent [the end of the Parousia] are not the same event. How do we know this?

<i>The Rapture</i>	<i>The Second Advent</i>
1. Christ comes to the air (1Th 4:17).	1. He comes to the <i>earth</i> (Zec 14:4).
2. He comes <i>for</i> His saints (1Th 4:16-17).	2. He comes <i>with</i> His saints (1Th 3:13 ; Jud 1:14).
3. The Rapture is a mystery, i. e. , a truth unknown in OT times (1Co 15:51).	3. The Revelation is not a mystery; it is the subject of many OT prophecies (Ps. 72; Isa. 11; Zech 14).
4. Christ's coming <i>for</i> His saints is never said to be preceded by celestial portents.	4. His coming <i>with</i> His saints will be heralded by signs in the heavens (Mat 24:29-30).

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| 5. The Rapture is presented as a time of blessing (1Th 4:18). | 5. The Revelation is identified with the Day of the Lord (2Th 2:1-12 , NU Text). |
| 6. The Rapture is presented as a time of blessing (1Th 4:18). | 6. The main emphasis of the Revelation is on judgment (2Th 2:8-12). |
| 7. The Rapture takes place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1Co 15:52). This strongly implies that it will not be witnessed by the world. | 7. The Revelation will be visible world-wide (Mat 24:27 ; Rev 1:7). |
| 8. The rapture seems to involve the church primarily (Joh 14:1-4 ; 1Co 15:51-58 ; 1Th 4:13-18) | 8. The Revelation involves Israel primarily, then also the Gentile nations (Mat. 24:1-25:46) |
| 9. Christ comes as the Bright and Morning Star (Rev 22:16). | 9. He comes as the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings (Mal 4:2). |
| 10. The Rapture is not mentioned in the Synoptic Gospels, but is alluded to several times in John's Gospel. | 10. The Revelation is characteristic in the Synoptics but hardly mentioned in John's Gospel. |
| 11. Those taken are taken for blessing (1Th 4:13-18). Those left are left for judgment (1Th 5:1-3). | 11. Those taken are taken for judgment. Those left are left for blessing (Mat 24:37-41). |
| 12. No dating system is given for events preceding the Rapture. | 12. An elaborate dating system is given for the Revelation, such as 1260 days, 42 months, 3½ years (see Dan 7:25 ; Dan 12:7 ; Dan 12:11-12 ; Rev 11:2 ; Rev 12:14 ; Rev 13:5). |

13. The title “Son of Man” is never used in any of the passages dealing with the Rapture.

13. The revelation is spoken of as the coming of the Son of Man ([Mat 16:28](#); [Mat 24:27](#), [Mat 24:30](#), [Mat 24:39](#); [Mat 26:64](#); [Mar 13:26](#); [Luk 21:27](#)).

d. Also, the difference is seen in the fact that at the rapture all believers will get a resurrection body. However, at the Second Advent there will be believers who made it through the Great Tribulation who enter into the Millennium in natural human bodies to re-populate the earth and the nations. They will not have resurrection bodies. These will be those who had not been saved prior to the Rapture but got saved during the Tribulation Period. Those who survive till the end of the Tribulation will go into the Millennium and re-populate the earth and nations. If the rapture of the church was the same as the Second Advent then all believers would get a resurrection body and all unbelievers would be removed. There would be no natural humans to re-populate the earth. Once you get a resurrection body you will never die again. It states however in the OT that during the Millennium they will live long ages and a baby will die at 100 years old. [Is. 65:20](#) If everyone got a resurrection body at the Second Advent then it would not be possible to die during the Millennium!

D. we ask you

1. **ask-** Gr. **eratao-** *to bind with an oath*

2. not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

A. not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled,

1. **soon-** Gr. **tacheos**

2. **shaken-** Gr. **saleuo-** *to move to and fro, shake, to put into a state of waving, rocking, vibratory motion*

a. Paul was surprised they were so soon shaken because it was not too long ago that he was there and taught them these things.

3. **mind-** Gr. **nous**

4. **troubled**- Gr. **throeo**- *to be troubled in mind, to be frightened, alarmed*

B. either by spirit or by word or by letter,

1. **spirit**- Gr. **pneuma**

- a. This means a prophetic message or revelation given supposedly by the Spirit of God. In this case it was a false word.
- b. If a prophetic word does not match up with the Word of God, throw it out!

2. **word**- Gr. **logos**

- a. This is a preached message.
- b. If someone preaches a message that is not backed up by scripture, throw it out!

3. **letter**- Gr. **epistole**- *epistle*

- a. This was a false letter written to the Thessalonians presumably from Paul.
- b. Paul hand signed this letter at the end to show it was really from him. [2 Thess. 3:17](#) Apparently, Paul had distinctive handwriting and signature.
- c. Today, many people are writing books with supposed special revelation. If a book your read is not back up by the Scripture, throw it out!

C. as if from us,

1. **from us**

- a. The enemy is crafty and always will find someone to yield to him. Sending these saints a fake letter in the name of Paul was demonic!

D. as the the day of Christ had come

1. **day of Christ**

- a. The most trusted manuscripts say the "Day of the Lord". The Day of the Lord is well attested to in the OT and refers to the whole Tribulation Period culminating his final judgment upon the world at His Second Advent.

2. **come**- Gr. **enistemi**- *to be present, to have arrived*

- a. Some had interpreted the tribulation and persecution they were facing that the Tribulation Period was starting and that they had possibly missed the Rapture! That would be unsettling to your mind if you believed that!

3. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

A. Let no one deceive you in any way.

1. deceive- Gr. **exapatao**

2. in any way

a. Satan tries to deceive people in many ways. He tried to deceive the Thessalonians by spirit, word, and letter.

B. For that day will not come,

1. This phrase is not found in the Greek. It was added by the translators. Omit

C. unless the rebellion comes first,

1. rebellion- Gr. **apostasia-** *falling away, departure from truth*

a. Some have tried to insert the rapture here saying that this Greek word means “the departure”. They say it refers to the departure [rapture] of the church. However, this Greek word always has a negative connotation to it and is a departure from the truth.

b. There is a great falling away from the truth of the gospel coming. It already is becoming more and more unpopular to be a Christian. It is less and less politically correct to hold to absolute truth and morality today. It will only get worse as we approach the coming of the Lord.

c. It is true that the church must depart before the Anti-Christ is revealed but this verse is not the verse to use to prove it. We will find such a verse later in the chapter.

D. and the man of lawlessness is revealed,

1. man- Gr. **anthropos**

a. This is speaking of the Anti-Christ. He will be born as a man through a woman just like Jesus was.

2. lawlessness- Gr. **anomia-** *without law*

a. The Anti-Christ will be against all of God's laws. He will go to change the laws of God. [Dan. 7:25](#)

3. **revealed**- Gr. **apokalupto**- *to take the lid off, uncover*

E. the son of destruction

1. **son**- Gr. **huios**- *mature son*

a. Satan always tries to imitate God. We see in the book of Revelation that Satan will set up a trinity that will copy the Godhead. He will act like the Father. His son will be the Anti-Christ, and the False Prophet will act like the Holy Spirit, who does miracles in the name of the son.

b. I believe Satan will come into a Jewish woman and impregnate her. Satan is a fallen angel. The fallen angels have had children before from natural women. [Gen. 6:1-2](#) He will try to copy the birth of Jesus. The Anti-Christ will come as a false Messiah to the Jews. [Zech. 11:16](#), [Dan. 9:27](#) I believe that a Muslim man will adopt this child like Joseph did Jesus. This will bring both the Jew and Muslim [two hostile groups to one another] into oneness under the Anti-Christ. To be accepted as a Jew among the Jews you need a Jewish mother. However, to be accepted as a Muslim among Muslims you must have a Muslim father. In this way he will bring two warring groups under the same fold in the Tribulation Period. Both the Jew and Muslim will accept and claim the Anti-Christ as their Messiah.

c. In Isaiah it says of Jesus that a child is born [speaking of his humanity] and a son is given [speaking of his divine nature]. Satan will try to copy this and the Anti-Christ will be born of a natural woman but his father will be Satan. Therefore a son of destruction will be given!

2. **destruction**- Gr. **apoleia**

a. Judas was a type of the Anti-Christ to come. He was called the "son of perdition". It is possible that Judas may have planned to take over for Jesus once he was imprisoned. The Anti-Christ will seek to replace the true Messiah.

4. who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he

is God.

A. who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,

1. **opposes-** Gr. **antikeimi-** *to be set against*

2. **exalts-** Gr. **huperairomai-** *to lift up over*

a. This was Lucifer's desire from the very beginning. [Is. 14:13-14](#) Just as he was cast down, so will the Anti-Christ.

3. **all that is called God**

a. There have been dictators in the past who called themselves a god and sought worship, but none of them was so brash to say that they were the only God.

b. The Anti-Christ will claim to be the one true god and will demand exclusive worship as the only god.

4. **worshiped-** Gr. **sebasma**

B. so that he sits as God in the temple of God,

1. **sits-** Gr. **kathizo**

a. He will set up a throne in the Holy of Holies.

2. **as God**

3. **temple-** Gr. **naos**

a. This is the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. The Anti-Christ will throw out the ark of the covenant and sit up a throne in the Holy of Holies and proclaim to be God.

C. showing himself that he is God

1. **showing-** Gr. **apodeiknumi-** *showing off*

a. The Anti-Christ will act like a big shot, but he will be cast into the Lake of Fire with a big shot! [Rev. 19:20](#)

5. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

A. remember- Gr. **mnemoneuo**

B. still with you

1. During his three week stay there.

C. told- Gr. **lego**

1. This is why Paul was so amazed that they so quickly were deceived on this issue, because it was not too long ago he was with them.

6. And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

A. And now you know what is restraining,

1. now

a. This is during the Church age- the age of grace.

2. know- Gr. **eido-** *to know full well*

3. restraining- Gr. **katecho-** *to hold down*

a. This is in the neuter gender in the Greek. This would not refer to the word "church", which is female in the Greek. The church comprises all Christians both dead [gone on to be with Jesus in heaven] and those alive [present on the earth]. I believe the one restraining refers to the body of Christ who are those Christians presently on the earth carrying out His ministry. The word "body" is neuter. All Christians are in the church, but not all Christians are part of the body, which is presently functioning in the earth. Some have left their function in the body by dying and leaving this earth. Their function in the body have been taken up by other Christians that are here on the earth. Jesus body is now on the earth not in heaven. Jesus body is one place, not in two different places- on earth and in heaven. However, the church is two places- heaven and earth.

b. I believe this refers to the body of Christ, which has been the only world empire since Rome fell. Many have tried to raise up a world empire since but have not been able to- i. e. Napoleon, Hitler...

c. Once the body of Christ is raptured then the restraining influence of the body of Christ will be removed and the Anti-Christ will be free to set up his one world government.

B. that he may be revealed in his own time

1. revealed- Gr. **apokalupto**

a. Before Jesus is revealed the Anti-Christ will be revealed first.

2. **time-** Gr. **kairos-** *season, time period*
 - a. This will be the Tribulation Period.

7. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

A. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;

1. **mystery-** Gr. **musterion-** *secret*

2. **lawlessness-** Gr. **anomia-** *without law*

- a. There is the mystery of godliness and the mystery of lawlessness. [1 Tim. 3:16](#)

- b. The mystery of godliness centers around the person of Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection. Focusing our mind on the resurrected Jesus releases His power of godliness in and through us. [Col 3:1-5](#), [2 Cor. 3:18](#), [Rom. 8:4-5](#) This is a complete mystery to the world and unfortunately also to almost the entire church.

- c. The mystery of lawlessness is centered around the Anti-Christ, or the Beast as he is called in Revelation. [Rev 17:5](#); [Rev 17:7](#)

- d. The mystery of lawlessness will also be rooted in a focus upon and worship of the natural realm. [Rom. 1:24-28](#), [Eph. 4:17](#) The Anti-Christ will cause all to worship him as a man and lead all away from any concept of anything spiritual.

- d. The spirit of Anti-Christ is already at work in the earth rising up many anti-Christ's that will prepare the way for the Anti-Christ of Revelation. [1 John 2:18](#)

3. **work-** Gr. **energeo**

B. only He who now restrains will do so until He be taken out of the way

1. **restrains-** Gr. **katecho-** *to hold down*

- a. In the last verse the word was neuter. Here is it singular. I believe it refers to the Holy Spirit here. So, putting the two verses together I believe the Holy Spirit is restraining the Anti-Christ and his one world government through the body of Christ.

2. **taken out of the way-** Gr. **ginomai ek mesos-** *caused to be out of*

the middle, to step aside

a. Once the church is removed, the Holy Spirit will step aside and will stop restraining the evil on the earth. He still will be here to save those who turn to God in the Tribulation, but he will step aside and not restrain Satan any longer from setting up the one world government through the Anti-Christ. The Holy Spirit is now using the church to restrain Satan and His plans now.

8. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

A. And then the lawless one will be revealed,

1. lawless one- Gr. **anomos-** *one without law*

a. He will go opposite of God's laws and mandates.

2. revealed- Gr. **apokalupto**

a. He will be revealed somewhat at the beginning when he makes a seven year peace pact with Israel, but he will fully be revealed in his true character and nature at the mid-point of the Tribulation when he declares himself god and forces all to worship him or be put to death.

B. whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

1. Lord- Gr. **kurios**

a. The Anti-Christ will proclaim himself as Lord, but the true Lord will be seen when He returns.

2. consume- Gr. **analisko-** *to consume, use up, destroy*

a. The Anti-Christ will try to consume the world, but in the end will be consumed himself by the Lord.

3. breath- Gr. **pneuma-** *spirit, breath*

a. The Anti-Christ will make a big show of himself, but it is ironic that he will be defeated by the mere breath of Jesus blown upon him. Jesus will literally blow the Anti-Christ away!

b. This breath will be sent forth when He speaks. [Isa 30:27](#)

4. mouth- Gr. **stoma**

5. **destroy**- Gr. **katargeo**- *to be (render) entirely idle (useless), to shut down*

a. [Rev 19:19-21](#)

6. **brightness**- Gr. **epiphaneia**

a. The Anti-Christ will head up the darkness of Satan in the earth. Just as darkness is instantly removed by the light, so Anti-Christ and his government will be removed by the brightness of Jesus' coming. [Mat 24:27](#)

7. **coming**- Gr. **parousia**

a. This word parousia means an initial coming and subsequent stay. This verse speaks of the latter end of Jesus' parousia- the Second Advent, not the rapture of the church, which is the beginning of His parousia.

9. The coming of the **lawless one** is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

A. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan,

1. **coming**- Gr. **parousia**- *arrival and subsequent stay*

a. This word has the implication that the Anti-Christ arrival will be more than just a natural birth. He will be the seed of Satan. [Gen. 3:15](#)

2. **lawless one**- not in Greek- *omit*

3. **working**- Gr. **energeia**

4. **Satan**- means *adversary*

a. The Anti-Christ will be indwelt by Satan himself.

B. **with all power**,

1. **all power**- Gr. **pas dunamis**

a. It is false to say that Satan has no power. What he lacks is authority, unless man gives it to him. We have authority over all of Satan's power. [Luke 10:19](#)

C. **signs**- Gr. **semeion**- *a sign, a mark, token, by which anything is known or distinguished*

D. **and lying wonders**

1. **lying**- Gr. **pseudos**- *false*

2. **wonders-** Gr. **teras-** *an amazing or unusual thing, especially one out of the ordinary course of nature.*

- a. The false prophet will do wonders in the name of the Anti-Christ. [Rev 13:11-15](#) In doing so Satan will imitate the Trinity.
- b. Satan can perform signs and wonders. Just because you see a sign and a wonder does not make it of God. Signs and wonders done by God always point to and glorify Jesus Christ. The signs and wonders that the Anti-Christ will do will point to himself and glorify himself.

10. **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

A. **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish,**

1. **unrighteous-** Gr. **adikia**

- a. The root of unrighteousness is unbelief.

2. **deception-** Gr. **apate**

3. **perish-** Gr. **apollumi**

- a. There are those who will perish. Universalists say there is no hell or perishing for unbelievers. They are sadly mistaken.

B. **because they do not receive the love of the truth,**

1. **receive-** Gr. **dechomai-** *welcome, embrace*

2. **love-** Gr. **agape**

3. **truth-** Gr. **aletheia**

- a. If you don't love truth, then you love deception. [John 3:19](#)
This verse is crucial to understand what Paul says in the next verse where he says that God will send them strong delusion. He sends it upon those who have already rejected the truth and love deception. He only gives them what they want in the first place.

- b. No one will be deceived that loves and seeks the truth.

C. **that they might be saved**

1. **saved-** Gr. **sozo-** *to save, deliver, heal*

- a. It is God's will that all be saved. [1 Tim. 2:4](#)

- b. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son Jesus who was the truth.

c. Men who hate Jesus hate the truth. Those who reject Jesus reject the truth and open themselves up to great deception and delusion. We see this take place in the next verse.

11. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

A. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion,

1. **for this reason-** Gr. **dia touto-** *because of this*

2. **send-** Gr. **pempo**

a. Some are really thrown by this. They don't understand why and how God would send them delusion so they would believe a lie. It is much like Pharaoh in the OT. It says he hardened his heart time and again. Once he had set his course that way then God just further hardened it afterwards.

b. This is like the Judo Technique. In this technique you use the momentum of the person against them. You just step aside and throw them harder in the direction they were already going. This is what God will do to those who have rejected the love of the truth during the Tribulation Period. He will use the Judo Technique on them and throw them further into delusion which was the direction they were headed and committed to already! [Is. 66:4](#)

c. God used this technique to the Gentiles in [Rom. 1:22-28](#). They rejected God, so God handed them over to their own lusts.

3. **strong-** Gr. **energeia-** *working*

4. **delusion-** Gr. **plane-** *error, a straying from truth*

a. No doubt it is the miracles, signs, and wonders the Anti-Christ will do that will make the delusion so strong. Peer-pressure will also add to it.

B. that they should believe the lie

1. **believe-** Gr. **pisteuo**

2. **the lie-** Gr. **psuedos**

a. The Greek says "the lie" not "a lie". "The lie" is mentioned in [Rom. 1:25](#). The lie is that creation or what is created is God

and there is no Creator. This Anti-Christ spirit is already here working in our colleges and universities that say there is no God, and what we see is the only thing there is or has been.

b. The Anti-Christ will be a created being but will proclaim Himself to be the only true God. That is “the lie”.

c. Jesus took on flesh but He was not created, but was and is the Creator.

12. that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

A. **condemned-** Gr. **krino**

B. **believe-** Gr. **pisteuo**

C. **truth-** Gr. **aletheia**

1. This truth is the gospel that Jesus was God made flesh, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, and was buried and raised again the third day.

2. To believe the truth is to believe the gospel.

D. **pleasure-** Gr. **hedone**

1. [Verse 11](#) which says God sent them strong delusion so they would believe a lie, is sandwiched between these people not receiving the love of the truth in [Vs. 10](#) and them not believing the truth and having pleasure in unrighteousness in [Vs. 12](#). God just handed them over to their own delusional path and they were further set in it. This was not God's will for them, but the result of their own set decision to reject Christ and the gospel and follow after delusion and unrighteousness.

E. **unrighteousness-** Gr. **adikia**

13. But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

A. **But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you,**

1. **bound-** Gr. **opheilo-** *ought*

2. **give thanks-** Gr. **eucharisteo-** *give good grace*

a. Thanksgiving is one of the most important keys to magnifying God in our life.

B. brethren beloved by the Lord,

1. brethren- Gr. **adelphos**

a. These are believers.

2. beloved- Gr. **agapao**

a. Believers have received love from God. They have welcomed the love of the truth. Those unbelievers Paul is speaking about in this chapter will reject the love of the truth [Jesus].

C. because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

1. beginning- Gr. **arche**

a. This is through God's foreknowledge. God knew from the beginning who would believe upon Him and those who would not.

2. chose- Gr. **aihreomai-** *to take for oneself, to prefer, choose*

a. God chooses those who accept His invitation of salvation through faith.

b. In Jesus' parable of the great wedding feast many rejected the king's offer to come. [Matt. 22](#) Those who accepted and came were chosen. Jesus ends that parable by saying many are called but few are chosen. [Matt. 22:14](#) Who were the ones who were chosen? The ones who answered the call!

c. God knew before the world began who would accept his call to His wedding banquet for His Son. It was those who would accept Him by faith.

d. Jesus said that all the Father gave Him would come to Him. [Joh 6:37](#) This does not mean that God makes them come but He knows that they will come by faith.

3. salvation- Gr. **soterion**

4. sanctification- Gr. **hagiasmos-** *the state of being set apart*

a. This is not as Calvinists teach. They teach that God regenerates someone first so that they can then believe upon Christ. No, we are born again because we first believed. The

Scripture says we are sealed by the Holy Spirit AFTER we believe. [Eph. 1:13](#) Being sealed by the Holy Spirit is the regeneration of the Holy Spirit and being born again.

b. *Here we have the Holy Spirit's pre-conversion work. He sets individuals apart to God from the world, convicts them of sin, and points them to Christ. Someone has well said, "If it had not been for Christ, there would have been no feast; if it had not been for the Holy Spirit, there would have been no guests!"* - Believer's Bible Commentary

c. [1Pe 1:2](#)

5. **belief-** Gr. **pistis-** *firm persuasion*

a. This is how we must accept God's call. It is by believing on Christ. This is why we are chosen, not because God chose to make us believe and then send everyone else he didn't pick to send to hell. This ultra-sovereignty teaching is unscriptural.

b. Every believer has a part in being chosen. They believe upon Christ. This is not something God makes people do. They do it of a free will. God knows in advance who will do this however.

c. The doctrine of election is always prefaced by God's foreknowledge. [1 Peter 1:2](#)

6. **truth-** Gr. **aletheia**

a. This is the truth of the gospel.

14. to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. to which He called you by our gospel,

1. called- Gr. **kaleo**

a. God's call of salvation is always based upon and centered around the gospel and man's response to it- either to believe it or reject it through unbelief, not God's whim on who to save and who to send to hell.

2. gospel- Gr. **euaggelion-** *the good news*

a. God's call to every person is to come and believe upon Christ. Those who answer that call and believe upon Christ are chosen for salvation. God gives us a clear understanding how

we can be chosen in salvation. It is those who believe upon Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection. These are the terms of salvation. Those who meet the terms are the chosen!

B. for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ

1. **obtaining-** Gr. **peripoiesis-** *a laying up, keeping; an acquiring or obtaining, acquisition*

2. **glory-** Gr. **doxa**

a. As a Christian we share everything with Christ. We are called to share the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. [John 17:22](#)

15. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

A. Therefore,

B. brethren- Gr. **adelphos**

C. stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught,

1. **stand fast-** Gr. **steko-** *to stand firm, be constant, persevere*

2. **hold-** Gr. **krateo-** *ruling or controlling power, seize with a strong grasp and control*

a. We need to keep a strong hold of the Word of God because Satan and people will try to wrestle the truth from us by persuasion and pressure.

3. **traditions-** Gr. **paradosis-** *to give over, what is transmitted*

a. This is not speaking of the mere traditions of men, but the Word of God that Paul gave over to the saints. [1Co 11:2](#)

b. It is amazing how easily it is to get many Christians to let go of the Word of God and receive counterfeit truth. [2Th 2:2](#) It is imperative we study the Word for ourselves and be persuaded of the truth for ourselves. There are a lot of Christians baby birds out there just swallowing everything that is fed to them.

4. **taught-** Gr. **didasko**

D. whether by word or our epistle

1. **word-** Gr. **logos**

a. In this context this means their spoken word when they were with them.

2. **epistle**- Gr. **epistole**- *letter*

- a. We as Christians are to hold fast to the letters of the apostles that are found in the New Testament.

16. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,

A. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself,

1. Many times the Scriptures will say that both Jesus and the Father will give us or has given us certain things. Here it says both will give everlasting consolation and good hope. Only God can give something everlasting. This shows that both the Lord [a divine title] Jesus Christ and God the Father are equally God.

B. and our God and Father,

C. who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace.

1. **loved**- Gr. **agapao**

2. **given**- Gr. **didomi**

- a. These were given to us when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

3. **everlasting**- Gr. **aiionios**- *perpetual, everlasting*

- a. Universalists try to explain this word as meaning "for a definite period of time" because this Greek word is used in connection to hell. They seem to overlook that this same Greek word is connected to heaven and in this verse with consolation. If this word means "for a definite or set period of time" then heaven and God's consolation is only for a set period of time. No, this word means perpetual and everlasting.

4. **consolation**- Gr. **paraklesis**- *comfort*

- a. We will have everlasting comfort in God's presence in heaven.

5. **good**- Gr. **agathos**- *divine good*

6. **hope**- Gr. **elpis**- *confident expectation*

- a. We Christians have a good confident expectation from God. A sinner has a bad expectation from God.

7. **grace**- Gr. **charis**- *unmerited favor, power, strength, ability*

a. We have good hope though God's favor through Jesus. We can be confident that we will not be judged for our sins in God's presence, because we have accepted God's sacrifice for our sins and God judged our sins in Jesus. God is a righteous judge and will not punish for the same sins twice. That would be double jeopardy! Jesus was punished once and for all for all our sins. We will be judged for our works, but not for the guilt of our sins.

17. **comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.**

A. **comfort**- Gr. **parakaleo**- *to encourage*

1. This is what the Thessalonians needed right now. They were shaken and discouraged by false prophets and teachers.

B. **hearts**- Gr. **kardia**

C. **establish**- Gr. **sterizo**- *to stabilize*

1. Our hearts will be stabilized by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit by grace through faith. [Act 16:5](#), [Col 2:7](#), [Heb 13:9](#)

D. **good**- Gr. **agathos**- *divine good*

E. **word**- Gr. **logos**- *the spoken word*

1. [Col 4:6](#)

F. **work**- Gr. **ergon**

1. This is the work of faith.