

## **The Man of Lawlessness**

2 Thessalonians

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The believers at Thessalonica were trying to live a life worthy of God's call. Their faith prompted them to many fine deeds, bringing honor to the name of Jesus.

At the same time, they were suffering persecution from outside as well as dealing with internal issues. Many were alarmed when members of their fellowship started claiming, "The day of the Lord has already begun." Some of these people said, "I had a vision." Others said, "God gave me a revelation." And still others claimed to have received this information in an authoritative letter.

But calmer heads recalled the teachings of Paul:

The day of the Lord won't come until after a great rebellion. The man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, will set himself up against God and against every so-called god. He will sit in the temple of God and claim to be a god. The evil one will give him power to perform counterfeit miracles and many will be deceived. Then the Lord Jesus will come and overthrow the lawless one with the breath of his mouth, his word of truth.

The church was also dealing with members who had become idle, refusing to work and mooching off of fellow believers. Again Paul's teaching came to the rescue. He had said, "Anyone who won't work shouldn't eat."

Indeed, even though Paul's ministry to others should have earned him his keep, he never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. He had always worked hard day and night to earn his own living and avoid being a burden to anyone.