2 Thess 2:6-12

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read 2 Thess 2:6-12.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

6a And you know what restrains him now,

6b so that in his time he will be revealed.

7a For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;

7b only he who now restrains will do so

7c until he is taken out of the way.

8a Then that lawless one will be revealed

8b whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth

8c and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9a that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan,

9b with all power and signs and false wonders,

10a and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish,

10b because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11a For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence

11b so that they will believe what is false,

12a in order that they all may be judged

12b who did not believe the truth,

12c but took pleasure in wickedness.

1. What does the “And” at the beginning of v. 6 connect to?
2. What does Paul say is true of the Thessalonians in v. 6?
3. How would they know this?
4. What does this say about our understanding of eschatology?
5. What does it mean to restrain?
6. Who is the “him” of v. 6?
7. Why is he being restrained now?
8. How does this point to God’s sovereignty and the fulfillment of his plans and purposes?

* Day 2

Read 2 Thess 2:6-12 again.

1. What is “the mystery of lawlessness” and how is it “already at work”?
2. Who is the “he” “who now restrains”?
3. When will “he” be taken out of the way?
4. What will happen to the lawless one?
5. When will this happen to the lawless one?
6. How is the lawless one described in v. 9-10?

* Day 3

Read 2 Thess 2:6-12 again.

1. Why will those who are deceived by the lawless one perish?
2. What does God do according to v. 11?
3. Why would God do this according to v. 11?
4. What does this say about the character of God?
5. How does this align with what we’ve seen of God’s character in 2 Thess?
6. What should your response to this passage be?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would understand this text and others that deal with God’s plans for the future so that we can have hope today!