STAND FIRM AND HOLD FAST

2 Thessalonians 2:1–17

Key Verse: 2:15

1. About what false teaching did the apostles warn the Thessalonians? (1,2) What had they already taught them about this? (1Th3:13; 4:15–17; 2Th1:7–10) How could this false teaching easily unsettle or alarm them?
2. How did the apostles warn them? (3a; cf. Mt24:4,5) What must happen before Jesus comes again? (3b) What is “the rebellion”? (Mt24:10–12; 1Ti4:1) Who is “the man of lawlessness”? (1Jn2:18; cf. Da7:25; 8:25; Rev13:4–6) What will he do, and how will it fulfill prophecies? (4; cf. Isa14:13,14; Eze28:2; Da11:36,37)
3. What else did Paul say? (5) When will the man of lawlessness finally “be revealed”? (6,7) What will the Lord Jesus do to him? (8; cf. Isa11:4b; Rev19:15,20) How will he gain influence over people? (9,10a) What is “the lie”? (4) Read verse 10b. Why does God send some people a powerful delusion? (11,12) What lesson is here for us?

1. In contrast, why were the apostles thankful for the Thessalonians? (13) What does it mean that God “loved” and “chose” them? That they were “firstfruits”? In what two specific ways would they be “saved”? (13b) What would the final outcome be? (14)
2. If we really believe these things, what should we do? (15) What pressures do we face to waver and let go of our faith? How can we “stand firm” and “hold fast”? What final words of blessing does Paul give? (16,17) In light of this passage, why do we need such encouragement and strengthening?