

RESTRAINING THE MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS
(2 Thessalonians 2:6-8)

- I. Paul's ENCOURAGEMENT In Light of Present Persecution (chp 1)
- II. Paul's EXPLANATION Concerning the "COMING" of the Lord (2:1-2)
- III. Paul's WARNING About DECEPTION Concerning the Day of the Lord (2:3-5)

A. Negatively: "Let no one DECEIVE you, by any means..." (2:3a)

B. Positively: That Day will not come UNLESScertain things come to pass (2:3b)

1. The " _____ (_____)" comes first (2:3a)

2. Then the "man of sin" is _____ .

- Who is the man of sin?

3. Paul reminded the Thessalonians – "*Do you not remember when I was with you I _____ these things*" (2:5)

IV. Paul's TEACHING Concerning _____ On The Mystery Of Lawlessness (2:6-7)

- What is the "Mystery of Lawlessness"?
 - The mystery of lawlessness is the development of _____ in the world we live in that will one day be manifest in one particular _____ ! - The Man of _____ !
 - This Antichrist is the ultimate _____ & _____ of evil & the culmination of all that is _____ to God
- How did this "*mystery*" begin & where will it end?

- The person of the _____ in the Church Age is key in understanding who the restrainer is.

A. Their Knowledge of the Restrainer of Evil (2:6)

1. Paul reminded them they already had an _____ of a _____ at work in the church on their behalf.

“*know*” (oida)

“*restraining*” (katecho)

2. The Thessalonians *knew* a restrainer was _____ the culmination of the mystery of lawlessness from being manifest among them.

B. The Identity of the Restrainer of Evil (2:6b-7a)

1. The answer to who can restrain or hinder Satan is found in the question: “Who is *powerful enough* to hold back Satan”?

- Is there biblical evidence for this answer?

2. It is clear that the restrainer in this passage is none other than the _____.

- Why is this restraint being made?

C. The Removal of the Restrainer of Evil (2:7-8)

1. Paul states that the mystery of Lawlessness is _____ at work in the world today (2:7a)

2. The Holy Spirit will continue to restrain the mystery of Lawlessness until He is taken _____.

3. The present dispensation that began with the coming of the Holy Spirit at _____ will end with His restraining ability being taken out of the way at the _____.

4. As Charles Ryrie states it—“*It is the difference between the _____ of the HS (always present) & the _____ of the HS (resident within the believer in this present dispensation)*”