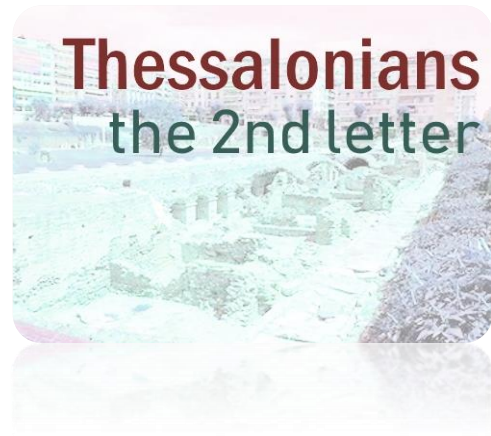


# 2 THESSALONIANS 2 vs 5

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**Perilous days are at the door.** There is a prominent personality who weekly had been in the news, who was once asked if he ever wanted to be: President of the World. Can you imagine? Seriously asked; and that guy responded loquaciously in the affirmative. There are some creepy people out there.



And here are three titles from the Roman confession: Idem est dominium Dei et papae -- The dominion of God and the pope is the same... too long? How about this one? Deus alter en terra -- Another God on earth... bleep! I guess not. Try this: Dominus Deus noster papa -- Our Lord God the pope... what?! I don't think Antichrist, who seems to be a world politician... and the faithless whore are the same person. We know the roman beast is driven by a faithless whore.

Paul writes: someone is coming...

**<sup>4</sup> who opposes God, who sets himself against, and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship / a politician yapping, pretending **he is God.****

**<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was yet with you, I told you these things?**

**<sup>6</sup> And now you know what **restrains** that this one be revealed in his time:** the word is: **katecho**... what **restricts**; and this lover of lawlessness, this one who thinks **he is above the law**; which says: love God our Father in heaven above all others; and love one another as we love our self.

And all the commentators on this verse parrot something similar to Dr. Leon Morris... who says, We do well to bear in mind that the Thessalonians did know... **and we do not**. What?! Quite honestly, that doesn't make sense. That doesn't sound like God's way of dealing with His people, does it? So having heard all the braying asses, here's our comment:

One day this son of lawlessness who exalts himself will: **sit in the naos of God.**

And by that one phrase, **it is assumed** Paul is writing about a physical building. BUT in the New Testament, 2 very different words are translated with the one familiar word: **temple**.

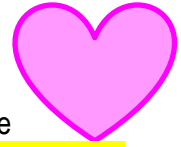
**hieron**... in Greek: a neuter of the adjective hieros... meaning: sacred, is used 71 times to speak of physical buildings, in this case: the national, **sacred complex** where Israelites, Jews and gentiles gathered with the Aaronic priesthood, to offer offerings of bulls and goats and doves; as well as to gather for reading and instruction. This word should have been translated: the **temple complex**... or even, **the hierarchy house** – you know, the head honchos' hangout... in Jerusalem we still know today. This is the word always used in the book of Acts, it is **not** the word used by Paul, and **not** used in the revelation. **This is NOT the word used here.**

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in Greek: **naos**... a noun, is used 46 times in the New Testament. In the book of Acts, it is used 3 times, 1 time translated: **shrine**, when Paul is talking about the sacred place to worship God in Athens; and 2 times when **Luke writes: the most High dwells not in naos made with hands**. Perhaps, this word should have been translated: **holy place**... or the **sacred place**. 1,000 years earlier, **Psalms 91 already spoke of: dwelling in the secret place of the Most high**... and that is **not** a building made with hands.



John records the word used 3 times, when Jesus said: Destroy this **naos**...this **sacred place** and in 3 days I will raise it up. Then the Jewish leaders probably having caricatured its meaning said, 46 years was this **naos** under construction, and will you build it up in 3 days? **But Jesus spoke of the naos of his body**. – John 2.

In the New Testament, the next time this word is used is in **1 Corinthians 3: 16,17**; Paul asks: Do you not know that **you are the naos of God**...the **sacred place** of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the **naos** of God, God will destroy him; for the **naos of God is holy, which you are!**

The next and only time **naos** is used is **now**... **sitting in the naos of God**; and to the end of the Bible it is used 16 times to describe events in heaven: **Revelation 21:22** And I saw no **naos**: no **sacred place** in heaven: **for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the naos of it!**

Now I could imagine: a prominent world leader visiting the **temple complex** in old Jerusalem; we know Rome wants that place. That would be suspicious and maybe a cause to be wary; but the last time Jesus was at the **hieron**... the **temple complex**, Jesus ended his confrontation with those leaders who sought to destroy him, and said: **Your house / no longer His Father's house is left to you a waste and desolation**.

The night Jesus was betrayed He said, **In My Father's house are many mansions** / many rooms to call home. And I bet they are not made with human hands!

So is a building required? **No!** because in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the media more **hearts**... the **place where the Spirit of God comes** to reside and make a home; through media more **hearts** are captured in conquest by the world sitting around a big screen, than sitting in a building.



<sup>7</sup> **For the mystery of lawlessness / anomia**, **a = negative + nomos = law**. Dr. Sproul stated: The Law of God exercises orderly restraint and restriction. Law is our schoolmaster that leads us to Christ... in a society that seeks their own way. Law does not fully or absolutely eliminate lawless behavior. Nonetheless, laws are necessary; murder is not a good thing. Many think they need no law: well then, why do they stop at a **red** light?

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**The lawless** have no law; except what they fabricate. Jesus spoke of the law of love for God His Father above all others, and for one another. The mystery of iniquity opposes the love of God.

**the mystery of lawlessness is already at work** / Paul tells us: anarchy and those who have no law guiding them, except the chaos they invent, is already at work; so, in one sense, it is now an open secret for students of the Lord; at least among those who watch, with their eyes open. Had the Thessalonians been living now days, they could say to the one promoting anarchy: **There he is!**

Paul writes...

**only what now restrains, will restrain...** will continue to restrain,

**until it is taken out of the way** / Paul said... the Law of God restrains and restricts, and in this verse: until what? is taken out of the way. Some say it is the **Holy Spirit** who restrains; others say, **the Church** restrains. **Michael** restrains... and he's a good restrainer -- **Daniel 9**; and one day, he will have the privilege of throwing down Satan from the heavens; while God the Father and His Son sit there on the Throne... and start whooping and hollering! A **Warrior** for Christ TKO's the opponent, a mismatched idiot -- an odd-ball musician in eternity... defeated in the first round! And all heaven will rejoice! Michael is a good restrainer; maybe he won't be taken out of the way, until the Church Jesus is building is taken.

Most importantly, **the Law of God restrains**... as it drives us to Christ. So, we know what holds down, and restricts, and restrains. The same word is used twice in Hebrews chapter 3; and once in Hebrews chapter 10. Listen; But Christ as a Son, faithful over His own house, whose house we are... if we katecho -- if we restrain, if we hold down... the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. -- **Hebrews 3**.

In the great hymn of faith: **A Mighty Fortress**... Martin Luther said, If we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing. Michael is not striving in his own strength; and neither should we.

Listen: **Hebrews 10**, Let us katecho... let us hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering; for He /our High Priest, Jesus Christ, the Son over His own house He is faithful, who promised.

So, don't wait around for someone else to do the job; until He takes us out of the way, continue exercising faith; in faith keep lifting up our Lord Jesus and His powerful words.

<sup>8</sup> **And then that wicked one will be revealed** / when the restraining power of God is removed, that lawless politician will be exposed. Dr. Leon Morris adds, Paul's primary aim is not to gratify curiosity about this one; he gives no details of his activity; and don't you love it; because we read:

**whom the Lord will kill with the Spirit of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming** / and bring that one to nothing; the Lord Jesus does that; Paul is talking about: gentle Jesus: simply with His brilliant and stunning **parousia**; Dr. Dallas Willard said: when light is turned on in a dark room; the darkness immediately disappears, right?

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So likewise, when the Lord Jesus returns in great glory... on **this 6<sup>th</sup> Day** belonging to Him; that lawless, grinning freak simply drops dead; Paul adds a footnote about this greasy pimple:

<sup>9</sup> **whose coming follows the work of Satan** / this wicked politician's official arrival on the world stage; follows the work of the devil; who we know is the father of lies...

**with all power and signs and wonders of lying** / and did you get that? He is **not** all-powerful. He is a pimple! And all his power and signs... all of his works are lies! He is simply a good, greasy pimple; a political pretender; an excellent actor... phony, but good at acting!

<sup>10</sup> **And with all his deceiving works** / all lies and deceit is all he does; he did nothing right; **he will dazzle those who are perishing, with all his deceiving works; because they did not receive or love the truth, that they might be saved.**

<sup>11</sup> **And for this cause, God will send them a strong delusion that they believe the lie,** / it is as if, God himself gives them a push -- no sense in delaying the inevitable, right? Those of the great Rebellion; the great Defection, Those who fall away from the faith and truth that is in Jesus,

<sup>12</sup> **that they all be damned, who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in doing wrong** / that they be found guilty and condemned, doing what is not right. It was Pilate who asked, What is truth? And that, when Jesus was standing there, staring him in the face. Pilate was clueless, like so many today, even in the church world.

<sup>13</sup> **But we ought to always thank God for you brothers and sisters, beloved of the Lord, because from the beginning God has chosen you for salvation, through sanctification by the Spirit, through faith in the truth.**

<sup>14</sup> **He called you to this through our Gospel, to obtain our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>15</sup> **So, brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep the instructions you were taught, whether by what we said, or what we wrote.**

<sup>16</sup> **May Jesus Christ our Lord Himself, and God our Father, who has loved us, and given us eternal encouragement and good hope through grace,**

<sup>17</sup> **encourage your hearts, and establish you in every word and good work.**

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**| Could Sing of Your Love Forever |**

**His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him**