

Keep Hoping > 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

2:1-2 *The fear: have we missed Jesus?* Paul writes to address an issue that is just as real to us as for the Thessalonians: are we hoping for the wrong thing? His words reassure us that we haven't missed Christ's return and that we can be comforted by God's truths.

2:3-7 *The solution: don't be deceived.* Two things need to happen before Christ's return: there must be a rebellion and there must arise a leader of that rebellion. As many questions as this leads to, Paul's reassuring point is that we can't have missed Jesus because these haven't occurred yet.

2:8-12 *The response: hope or despair.* For every Christian: take hope – your King is on the way! For everyone who doesn't trust Jesus: beware! Embracing deception is embracing your own destruction and despair. Instead, embrace God's truth, turn to Jesus and trust him!

Background: Just as in Paul's first letter to them, he addresses another concern about Christ's return.

The Point: Jesus has not yet returned, but he will. And because of this, our hope in him is not in vain.

Head: Believe that the scriptures tell us all we need to know.

Heart: Don't let anxiety or deception take root in your heart and mind. Christians have solid reasons for real hope!

Hands: Who can you help to have hope in Christ this week? Who needs the reassurance of his promised return?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
