

THE MAN OF SIN RESTRAINED
II THESS. 2:6-7

Introduction:

- A. Why doesn't the devil take over now?
 - 1. He is being restrained.

- B. Two things that must occur before the Kingdom:
 - 1. The Apostasy.
 - 2. The Antichrist (man of sin) revealed.

I. THE RESTRAINT. v6

- A. "withholdeth" = to hold down, Three implications:
 - 1. To hold fast, to retain, to keep.
 - 2. To hold back, to restrain, (preferred).
 - 3. To hold sway, to rule.

- B. The purpose of the restraint is "that he might be revealed in his own season."
 - 1. Christ came in "the fulness of time."
 - a. Gal. 4:4.
 - 2. The antichrist must wait until, "his own season"

- C. "Ye know."
 - 1. Had been taught previously by Paul.
 - 2. This is not information given to us.

II. THE RESTRAINER REMOVED.

- A. "The mystery of iniquity doth already work." v7
 - 1. This explains why the restraint is needed.
 - 2. The reason the Thessalonians are suffering.
 - 3. Behind the aggressive force of evil is an aggressive agent of evil.
 - 4. There is energetic satanic activity in the world now.

- B. The term "mystery" in the New Testament does not mean mysterious but something previously hidden & unknown.
 - 1. Something that human search cannot discover, but that God reveals.
 - 2. The God-head, the Church.

- C. "of lawlessness."
 - 1. Does not denote disorder and violation of law only but the definite aim of satan to overthrow the law of God and rule himself.
 - 2. Do you think you would like to live where there is no restraint?
 - a. Rev. 9:6 "And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them."
 - b. "shall gnaw their tongues for pain."
 - c. Rev. 16:1-11.

III. THE RESTRAINER. V7

- A. "only until he that now restraineth be taken out of the way."
 - 1. The restrainer will not be removed by an outside force. He won't be kicked out.
 - 2. He will terminate his restraining force when He is "out of the midst."

- B. The restrainer is not: Roman Empire, Pope, human government, the Jewish state, Elijah, Michael, etc.

- C. The Restrainer is the Holy Spirit as He works in His Church. He is the "one in the midst."

- D. The Holy Spirit will be here but the office work of Paraclete or Comforter will cease.