The Church and the Day of the Lord

2 Thessalonians 2:1-16

The Thessalonians' concern: *The Day of the Lord has come, 2:1-2*

Paul's proposition: *The Day of the Lord will not come until the Anti-Christ is revealed, 2:3-4*

1. **The spirit and person of the anti-Christ is presently restrained, 2:6**

2. **The Restrainer will be removed, 2:7**

   Only God is capable of restraining the Satanically empowered anti-Christ. As the Restrainer will be taken "out of the way" (2:7), this can only mean that He is currently present *in the world. In the context, the only other reference to anything being removed from this earth is the church (2:1—"our gathering together to Him"). As well, the Holy Spirit has a special relationship to the church via Spirit baptism. Therefore, the removal of the Restrainer refers to the "catching up" of the church to Christ, previously mentioned in 1Thessalonians 4:15-17.*

3. **Upon removal of the Restrainer the anti-Christ will be revealed, 2:8-10**

4. **Christ will come and judge the anti-Christ and his followers, 2:8b, 11-12**

Paul's conclusion:

As the Day of the Lord cannot "come" until the anti-Christ is revealed, and as he will not be revealed until the Restrainer is removed, the Thessalonians' composure is not to be "quickly shaken" nor are they to be "disturbed." Having believed the gospel they have as their anticipation gaining "the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2:14) which is parallel to "the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power…" (1:9-10).

The Thessalonian church should not worry that the Day of the Lord has come as it will not come until they have been gathered to the Lord (1 Thess 4:17; 2 Thess 2:1).