



[2 Thessalonians 2:1-3](#)

(1) Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, (2) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. (3) Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,
New King James Version

Paul likely included this so that the Thessalonians would understand that these are evidences that [Christ's return](#) is near, but it had not yet happened. There had not been a falling away, and the man of [sin](#) had not been revealed. Paul was gently giving them evidence by which they could evaluate that the return of Christ was not immediately around the corner. As they began to analyze it, this might have been quite discouraging to them. Nevertheless, in AD 51, the return of Christ was very much on the minds of church members.

In addition to this, II Thessalonians 3 deals with the issue that some in Thessalonica had quit their jobs because of misinterpreting Paul's [sermons](#), and they became busybodies while waiting things out. This is not good.

On the one hand, we are to live our lives always anticipating Christ's imminent return, partly because we do not know when we will die and our judgment ends. On the other hand, we are also to live and work as though [this world](#) will never end. Since nobody knows when Christ will return, we are to do our jobs with all of our might, as Solomon says ([Ecclesiastes 9:10](#)), and because we serve the Lord Christ, as Paul writes ([Colossians 3:24](#)). We are to do every job as well as we can, not carelessly cutting corners, assuming that it will all blow away in just a year or so. Such an approach is not a godly attitude.

The people described in Thessalonians 3 were just waiting things out because they had

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it in their minds that Christ ^(<http://www.theberean.org>) would return almost immediately. That is sheer [presumptuousness](#), carelessness, that [God](#) certainly does not appreciate in His children, because that is how He does things. We are to imitate Him. We are to work as He does, and His handiwork is all around us. He does pretty good work! The things that He builds last. They are high-quality work.

In practical fact, there is a tension between the two extremes that must be balanced. [Jesus](#) says, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working" ([John 5:17](#)). We are to imitate them materially and spiritually. Those simply waiting things out then were castigated, and time is not waiting for us either.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Trumpets Is a Day of Hope](#)



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