

**2 Thessalonians 2:5** - Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? (NASB)

1. Paul uses three consecutive second person plural pronouns to rattle their recall cages: **(1)** second person plural of *mēnmoneúō*: “Do you not remember, **(2)** the accusative plural of **σὺ** (*sú*): “while I was with you,” and **(3)** the dative plural of *sú*: “I was telling you these things.”
2. Again we see the importance of knowing what time it is. When a believer is chronologically oriented and knows his systematic theology, he is able to isolate the category under discussion.
3. In this passage, the category is eschatology, taught clearly by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4.
4. Doctrinal recall would enable these believers to stabilize their souls under pressure inflicted by false teachers.
5. When under pressure, the stabilized soul is enabled to concentrate so the Holy Spirit’s recall ministry can remind them of doctrinal rationales.
6. Although we know what time it is, current geopolitical events and national ineptitude threaten the stability of this client nation.<sup>1</sup>
7. Unfortunately, since ineptitude has characterized the current administration’s decision-making over the past seven years, we are cautioned to wonder if this incompetence is designed to conceal while advancing a hidden agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> “Inept: not sensible, foolish, clumsy, incompetent; applies to inappropriate actions and speech” (William Morris, ed., *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* [New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1971], s.v. “inept,” “ineptitude,” “awkward: Synonym: Inept.”)

8. We are not threatened by the Tribulation, but absent the Rapture's immediate arrival, we are on the brink of again entertaining "wars and rumors of wars."
9. In the first century, the challenge for the Gentiles at Thessalonica was to get their minds straight about what Paul had taught.
10. The appeal by Paul for them to remember his past teachings on the Rapture indicates that members had gone into reversionism, forgotten doctrine, and appropriated fear.
11. This is the point where the passage leads Paul to reiterate what he had taught before. Verses 6-7 introduce the subject of Jesus Christ's control of history.

**2 Thessalonians 2:5** - Do you not remember what you previously understood that while I was last with you I was teaching you these doctrines? (EXT)

**2 Thessalonians 2:6** - And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. (NASB)

1. Verse 6 introduces a result clause based on what precedes it in verses 1-5. Here is their expanded translation:

**2 Thessalonians 2:1** - Now we urgently request you, fellow believers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at the Rapture and our gathering together around Him [ **1 Thessalonians 4:16c-17a**],

**v. 2** - that you be not easily shaken in mind or disturbed, neither by demon influence, nor by a false doctrine nor by a false corrigendum as if from us, alleging that the Second Advent is near.

**v. 3** - Let no one deceive you according to any rhetorical method, for the Second Advent shall not come until after the Rapture occurs first, and the man of lawlessness [ **Beast-Dictator** ] will then start the process of having his identity revealed, the son of destruction,

**2 Thessalonians 2:4 -** The Lucifer-indwelt Beast-Dictator opposes God and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, with the result that he symbolically takes his seat in the Holy of Holies of the temple of God in the form of a self-commissioned statue, asserting that he himself is God.

**v. 5 -** Do you not remember what you previously understood, that while I was last with you I was teaching you these doctrines? (EXT)

2. Verse 6 opens with the phrase **καί νῦν (kai nún)**: “And now.” In view of this reminder of previous doctrines taught, Paul resumes his retrospective with a statement he knows is still in their frame of reference: the verb **οἶδα (oída)**: to know.
3. The present tense indicates that there is still doctrine in their souls’ inventories that may be accessed from their memory centers.
4. Their fear of missing out on the Rapture or that there is no Rapture has moved them into the first state of reversionism: Reaction and Distraction which includes **(1)** “rejection of authority”: of what Paul previously taught, **(2)** “lack of objectivity”: rejection of previously communicated doctrine, **(3)** “preoccupation with self” rather than occupation with doctrine, and **(4)** “loss of spiritual self-esteem” rather than having confidence in the Word.
5. The key to their deviation from Paul’s previous teaching is giving priority to doctrines of demons rather than the Word of God.
6. Paul says they the Thessalonians “know.” This means they have retained some of what he has already taught and they need to be stimulated for recall.

7. What they know is which power is involved in restraining the Beast-Dictator. The word “what” is the singular neuter article **τό (tó)**: “the thing.” This refers to the power of the Holy Spirit Who is identified in verse 7.
8. His power is said to “restrain,” the present active participle of the verb **κατέχω (katéchō)**: Literally, “to hold down”; to suppress, quash, restrain.
9. This same verb is found in:  
**Romans 1:18 -** For anger from God is being revealed from heaven [the Supreme Court of Heaven] against all ungodliness [heathenism] and unrighteousness [rejection of the gospel] of those who suppress [κατέχω (katéchō)] the truth [presentation of the gospel] through unrighteousness [false gospel]. (EXT)
10. Where false teachers “suppress” the truth in Romans 1:18, it is the Holy Spirit Who “restrains” the rise of a Beast-Dictator type personality in 2 Thessalonians 2:6.
11. Principle: Pretenders to the throne of the Beast-Dictator during the Church Age are restrained by the Holy Spirit. Once he is selected by Lucifer this restraining ministry will continue until post-Rapture.