II Thessalonians Outline

I. Paul’s Encouragement in Persecution  Ch. 1
   A. Thanksgiving for their growth  :1-4
   B. Encouragement in their persecution  :5-10
   C. Prayer for God’s blessing  :11-12

II. Paul’s Explanation of the Day of the Lord  Ch. 2
   A. Events preceding the Day  :1-12
      1. A Falling Away  :1-3a
      2. Man of Sin is revealed  :3b-5
      3. Restrainer taken out of the way  :6-7
      4. Second Coming of Christ  :8-12
   B. The Comfort of the believer on
      the Day of the Lord  :13-17

III. Paul’s Exhortation to the Church  Ch. 3
    A. Wait patiently for Christ  :1-5
    B. Withdraw from the disorderly  :6-15
    C. Conclusion  :16-18

Modified from The Open Bible
II Thessalonians  Thematic Outline

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven . . .

--has a two-fold purpose:  
  1. to be glorified in the saints  
  2. to render vengeance to the disobedient  (Ch. 1)

--will be preceded by the Falling Away and  
  by the revelation of the man of lawlessness  (Ch. 2)

--is a firmly anchored hope whose contemplation  
  should result not in disorderliness, but in calm  
  assurance, steadfast endurance, and  
  strength-imparting peace  (Ch. 3)

Modified from Wm Hendriksen
II Thessalonians Two
II. Paul’s Explanation of the Day of the Lord

A. Events preceding the Day of the Lord 2:1-12

1. First, a Falling Away 1-3a
   --Paul’s assurance that the Day has not arrived
   He doesn’t want them unsettled in mind, troubled or deceived.  (a bogus letter?)
   --the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
   and our gathering together (synagogue) to Him
   --the Falling Away, apostasy:  to stand away
   a mass defection from the Truth

2. The Man of Sin is revealed 3b-5
   --Character of the Man:
   *lawlessness, sin
     total contempt for Divine law
   *son of perdition, ruin, loss
     his proper destiny

   --Activity of the Man (next page)
--Activity of the Man
  *opposes God
  *exalts himself above God, gods & religion
  *sits as God in the temple of God
  *displays himself as being God

_Paul’s probing question: Do you not remember...?_

3. The Restrainer is taken out of the way :6-7
   --Thessalonians’ knowledge of the restrainer
     ~he will be revealed in his own time
   --mystery of lawlessness already at work
     ~the one who now restrains (will do so)
     until he is taken out of the way

4. The Second Coming of Christ :8-12
   --Lawless one is revealed :8
   --Lawless one is destroyed
     *by the Lord’s consuming breath
     *by the Lord’s resplendent majesty at
     His coming
--Lawless one’s source of power: Satan
  *techniques: power
  signs
  lying wonders
  unrighteous deception

  *realm of operation: those who perish
  --reason for their perishing: they did not
  welcome the love of the truth

--God’s judgment on the unbelievers
  *strong delusion, that they should believe
  the lie
  *this leads to their condemnation
  --they did not believe the truth
  --they had pleasure in unrighteousness

Note again the mind-body or belief/practice connection.
Wrong belief leads to wrong behavior. A person
whose beliefs are contrary to Scripture will be a person
whose behavior is unrighteous, immoral, displeasing to
the Lord, and ripe for the judgment of Holy God.

Pursue the Truth, cling to it, welcome it, love it, obey
it, and enjoy walking with the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is
the truth.
B. Believers’ Comfort on the Day of the Lord :13-17

1. Paul’s Thankfulness for God’s work in the Thessalonian church :13-14

--bound to give thanks always (His past work)
(Cf. 1:3 His present work)

*chose them for salvation
Spirit set them apart and gave them faith
*called them to salvation (effectually)
by our gospel

Why did God do this for these people?
“For the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. Exhortations to the Saints :15
(note the “therefore”)
--Stand fast (imperative)
--Hold tightly onto (imperative)

“the traditions which you were taught
by word (spoken, preached)
or by letter (epistle, I Thessalonians)
3. Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians’
   comfort and strength :16-17

   “Himself” is in the emphatic position at the
   beginning of the sentence.

   our Lord Jesus Christ
   our God and Father
   Who has
       --loved us
   and
       --given us everlasting consolation
       and
       good hope
   by grace

   (the prayer requests) “May He Himself

       1. Comfort your hearts
       2. Establish you in every
           --good word
           --good work