

UNDERSTANDING THE “FALLING AWAY” CONCEPT IN (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

I. The Background to this Issue

II. Defining the term “The Falling Away”

“the falling away” (apostasia) =

***Paul is saying the Day of the Lord has not yet started because:**

1. There is no _____ (2:3a)
2. There has been no advent of the _____ (2:3-4)
3. The removal of the _____, has not yet happened (2:5-7)
4. The _____ of the lawless one has not yet occurred (2:8-9)
5. The destruction of his _____ has not yet occurred (2:10-12)

**A. Some say it is a _____ departure or a turning away from God’s truth
...others say its...**

B. A _____ or _____ departure from the planet meaning the _____ ?

- Various tribulation views:

II. Ten Reasons “the Falling Away” (apostasia) Refers to the Rapture

1. There have always been _____ departures in the lives of God’s people in the past.
2. 2 Thessalonians was an _____
3. Because of the definite _____ before the noun *apostasia*. (The falling away)
4. This noun *apostasia* can refer to a _____ or _____ departure depending on the _____ and how it is used in that context.

5. The verb *aphistemi* can refer to a _____ departure.

6. The extended context favors a _____ of *apostasia*

7. The immediate context favors a _____ interpretation of *apostasia*.

*Who is the “restrainer of evil”?

It is best to see the restrainer as the _____ – the third member of the triune godhead.
Why?

- a. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent _____ (Acts 5:3-4)
- b. In the Greek text there is a switch in gender in the participle “restrainer” from _____ in vs 6, to _____ in verse 7
- c. We know from this same passage that the Holy Spirit is very active in _____ like what will happen in 2 Thess. 2:6-7

8. 2nd Thessalonians is part of a _____ of what Paul previously taught them.

9. Early bible translations favor a _____.

2:3 “Do not begin to allow anyone to lead you astray in any way, because the Day of the Lord shall not come except the afore mentioned departure (of the church to heaven) come first and the man of the lawless is disclosed in his true identity, the son of perdition.” – a Kenneth Wuest translation from the Greek

10. Today, the physical departure view is held by _____ of God’s word.

*What does all this mean to you?