



August 13, 2023
"2 Thessalonians 2"
Rick Raines
rraines@fairmountcc.org

Trail Guides assist us on **easy** trails and **difficult** trails.

Today's chapter from 2 Thessalonians points out the critical value of **steadfastness** regardless of trail **conditions**.

The first 12 verses highlight the **increase of trouble** our world is experiencing.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Paul emphasizes helpful trail guides:

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

- Don't be misled by **false teaching**.
- Stand firm in **true teaching**.
- Keep up the **good work** – in **deeds** and in **words**.

When we remain on the right trail, God will grant us **encouragement**, **hope**, and **strength**.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.