Following is the outline from a message by Pastor Dave Tietjen at Evangel Baptist Church, Wheaton IL
www.evbapt.org, a continuation of the series on 2 Thessalonians.
Also available are the pdf file of the PowerPoint® version of the notes, as well as an audio podcast

Message Notes
"The Rebellion Restrained"
2 Thessalonians 2:6-7
June 5, 2016

A Practical Restraint for an Animal

- **Applied Properly – It Works**
- **Alarming Possibilities – Be Warned**

  "There are many reasons to avoid or reconsider use of a retractable leash, starting with the fact that on this type of leash, your dog can get far enough away from you to either get into trouble or into harm's way." (Karen Becker)
- **Acceptable Prerequisites**
  - **Perfect Outlook (See Danger)**
  - **Perfect Outcome (Able to Control Always)**

    "If this is required for guaranteed safety of an animal, what would be required to restrain a diabolical, demonic, Satanically-controlled dictator filled with deception, supernatural power, unrestrained evil and blasphemous pretentions to deity?" (Pastor Dave)

A Powerful Restraint Upon Antichrist in Force

- **The Character to Be Revealed**

  "In premillennial eschatology, the final world ruler who opposes God and His Christ (particularly in relation to His deity), oppresses God's elect (especially the Jewish people) and seeks to usurp the place of divine worship through desecration of the holy (especially Jerusalem and its temple) is known as the Antichrist. . . . The designation *Antichrist*, appearing only in the epistles of John (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7), is made up of the Greek words *anti* (against, in place of) and *christos* (Christ), and indicates any agent of the Evil One (Satan) who acts contrary to or as a counterfeit of God's Anointed, who is destined to rule the world (Psalm 2:2, 6-8; 110:1-2; Isaiah 9:6-7, et al.)." (J. Randall Price)

  . . . who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. . . . The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders. (2 Thessalonians 2:4, 9 NKJV)
- **The Control That Is Restraining**

  And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8a NKJV)
  - **The "Mystery of Lawlessness" in Check**

    "The term mystery . . . as used in the Bible, it refers to God's secrets, His counsels, purposes and other truths not naturally known to man apart from His special revelation in Scripture or by His prophets." (J. Hampton Keathley)

- **Mystery of "Restrainer" Considered**
  "This final (broken) sentence reads (literally): 'Only the one who restrains now from the midst has happened.' Most likely, as with most English translations, Paul intended something like (beginning with verse 6): 'And now you know what is restraining (him), so that he might be revealed in his own time; for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work – (but will) only (be so) until the one who restrains (is removed) from our midst.'" (Gordon Fee)
  - **Guidelines to Follow**
    - **Fit the Language**
    - **Fill the Need**
    - **Find in Scripture**
    - **"Fade Out" ("Taken Out of the Way")**
  - **Guesses to Face**
    - **Many Possibilities**
    - **Most Popular – Rule of Law (Roman Empire)**
      - **Helpful to Paul**
      - **Helpless Against Satan**
  - **God Himself We Find**
    "Ultimately, a decision as to the identity of the restrainer will be made on the basis of answering the question, 'Who is powerful enough to hold back Satan?' The obvious and only answer to that question is God. Therefore, the restrainer must be God Himself. In this view, the neuter in verse 6 would remind us of the power of God in general and the masculine in verse 7 would point to the person of God." (Charles Ryrie)
    - **Restraint Examined (Genesis 6:3; Job 1:2)**
    - **Removal Explained**
      - **A Reversal of Pentecost**
        "The presence of the church of Jesus Christ is the restraining force that refuses to allow the man of lawlessness to be revealed." (Donald Barnhouse)

        "When the church is 'gathered together' and taken to be with Christ in the air, the salt and light will be withdrawn. Then every vestige of goodness will decay; every remnant of truth, unravel. It is at that time when the man of lawlessness will take center stage." (Chuck Swindoll)
      - **A Revealing of This Person: "Man of Sin"**

A Positive Result for God's People

- **Truth of God's Schedule Strengthened Church Then**
  "Three good reasons show why the day of the Lord and the tribulation time could not have begun in the time when the Thessalonians lived: first, the apostasy had not come; second, the man of sin had not been revealed; third, the Spirit of God had not been taken away." (John Walvoord)
- **Truth of God's Sovereignty Strengthens Church Today**
  "Satan's plots, Satan's people, Satan's plans advance only at God's permission and fulfill only God's purposes." (Pastor Dave)