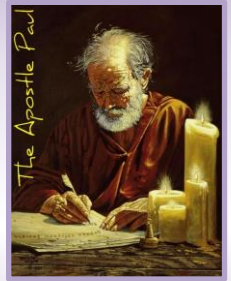


THESSALONIANS

There Is Hope!



Lesson 12: Blessed Hope: Part III ... [2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17]

PREVIEW

Paul encourages the believers at Thessalonica to remember God's choice of them through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit obtaining the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, Paul urges the Thessalonians to stand firm on proper teaching. He then prays that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God the Father will comfort their hearts and establish them in every good word and work.

Verses 13-17 have been called "a system of theology in miniature." It is a comprehensive statement of God's saving purposes.

CHOSEN FOR SALVATION: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-14

Paul echoes his conviction from 2 Thessalonians 1:3, that he was bound (obligated; in debt) to thank God for His work in the Thessalonian believers, in light of the greatness of that work.

BOUND	ὀφείλω
opheilō	o-fā'-lō
Bound; to owe; to owe money; be in debt for; the debt	

Paul gave thanks to the Lord for having chosen these Thessalonians believers for salvation. The revelation presented by Paul, is one of the most profound doctrines of the entire Word of God. Our salvation did not originate in human choice. God willed our salvation long before we ever came into existence (*before the foundation of the world* - Ephesians 1:3-6). This divine choice was based on divine love and divine determination. Paul gives thanks because they were "BRETHREN BELOVED BY THE LORD."

Paul states that salvation is through sanctification by the Holy Spirit and belief in the truth. Salvation and Sanctification, they are indivisible. Those who claim to be chosen but lack evidence of sanctification (*separation from the world and unto God*) are on shaky ground. We

can't see if a person is chosen, but we can see if they are sanctified. God's work of sanctification is a process.



Sanctification engages two great forces, (1) THE SPIRIT and (2) BELIEF IN THE TRUTH. The Spirit of God and the word of God are essential to our salvation through sanctification (The Work of the Holy Spirit - John 16:7-11).

In verse 14, Paul states, the call for salvation comes through the gospel. The true gospel preached by Paul (1 Corinthians 1:23; 15:1-4); the gospel or "good news" that will enable us to obtain THE GLORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (1 John 3:2). This is also known as The Great Exchange – 2 Corinthians 5:21.

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

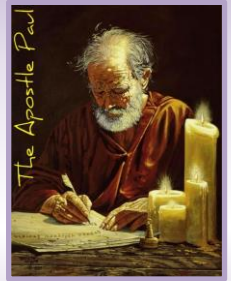
STAND FAST: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:15

In verse 15, Paul is encouraging the Thessalonians to consider what he has written up to this point. He has given them compelling reasons why they must stand fast and not be moved. In particular, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to stand fast in light of (1) the current distress; the persecutions and tribulations (2 Thess 1:4), (2) the coming judgment of this world; in flaming fire taking vengeance (2 Thessalonians 1:8), (3) the strength of coming deception; all power, signs, and lying wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9), (4) our glorious destiny; the glory of our Lord Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

STAND FAST	στήκω
stēkō	stā'-kō
To stand firm; to persevere; to persist	

THESSALONIANS

There Is Hope!



Lesson 12: Blessed Hope: Part III ... [2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17]

The command to stand fast speaks of what must be stood upon. Believers must keep standing on God's word, delivered both by (1) the authoritative word of the apostles (BY WORD) and (2) the letters of the apostles (OUR EPISTLE).

Scripture recognizes that traditions can be a dangerous feature of religious systems (Matthew 15:2-3) or the traditions of man (Colossians 2:8). However, Paul has in mind the apostolic traditions preserved for us in the record of the New Testament.

TRADITIONS	παράδοσις
<i>paradosis</i>	pä-rä'-do-sēs
A giving over which is done by word of mouth or in writing; tradition by instruction, narrative, precept, etc.	

ONLY THE ANCHOR OF GOD'S WORD ENABLES US TO STAND FAST UNDER THE WEIGHT OF OUR PRESENT TRIBULATION, AND THE WEIGHT OF OUR COMING GLORY.

PRAYER OF COMFORT: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16-17

In verse 16, Paul refers to OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF and OUR GOD AND FATHER as co-equals in (1) giving us everlasting consolation, (2) giving us good hope by grace, (3) comforting our hearts, and (4) establishing us in every good word and work.

Paul is making the case for the deity of Jesus; reminiscent of the creation account recorded in John 1 and Genesis 1, where the entire trinity is described as being co-equally involved in the creation process.

Notice that before asking God to do something specific for the Thessalonians (verse 17), Paul remembered all that God had done for them (verse 16), (1) God loved them, (2) God gave them everlasting consolation, and (3) God gave them good hope by grace.

When we pray we should remember God's PAST FAITHFULNESS and PRESENT BLESSING.

His FAITHFULNESS in the PAST is a PROMISE of His FAITHFULNESS for the FUTURE.

In verse 17, Paul asked God to do two things in the Thessalonian believers, (1) he wanted God to COMFORT their HEARTS and (2) he asked God to ESTABLISH them in EVERY GOOD WORD AND WORK.

This prayer for comfort and continued testimony and work for Jesus is fitting in light of the special needs of believers under pressure.

"I believe in an established Church, not established by acts of Parliament but stablished by the purpose and by the presence of God in the midst of it." ... Spurgeon

Notice Paul uses the phrase "EVERY GOOD WORD AND WORK". Paul emphasises not "just some", but "EVERY" GOOD WORD AND WORK, and not just word OR work, but both word AND work.

In other words, our actions must align with our words (testimony) ... James 1:22.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

-- James 1:22 ... NKJV

Do not miss the point of who, Paul says is responsible for establishing you in every good word and work. Paul is stating, in no uncertain terms, that this responsibility resides in our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and our God and Father. Aren't you glad it is not up to you? Paul makes this point also in Philippians 2:12-13.

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

-- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

Every GOOD AND PERFECT Gift
COMES FROM
Above.
-JAMES 1:17