

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

## First RPC Durham

**I. Praise God for Salvation (vv 13-14).**

- A.** The Duty of Praise — *But we are bound to give thanks to God always*
- 1) Thanksgiving is owed to God, so it is duty (Psa 115:1)
  - 2) Prayerlessness and Thanklessness are sins (1 Thes 5:15-17)
  - 3) Do not wait until you feel like giving thanks to give thanks.
  - 4) The Dangers of Prayerlessness, particularly Thankless Prayers:
    - a) Give way to despair, at neglect of the joy we have in Christ
    - b) Focus on earthly things alone at the neglect of our eternal hope (1 Pt 1:3-5)
    - c) Fosters self-sufficiency, as if all good things came from ourselves rather than God
    - d) Begets further sin, neglecting loyalty we owe God
- B.** The Recipient of our Praise — *To God always*
- 1) For God is the giver of every good gift (Lk 11:11-12)
  - 2) For God has done marvelous things
  - 3) The benefits of God-centered prayers: (a) Humility (Psa 115:8, BOPFW); (b) Joy (Neh 8:10); and, (c) Love
- C.** The Content of our Thanksgiving Prayers
- 1) *For you, brethren beloved by the Lord*
  - 2) Thankfulness for God's grace in Election — God chose from before the beginning in His eternal decree, those whom He would save. This is a Biblical doctrine (Eph 1:3-6) and comfort
    - a) God cannot lie, and as this is a part of His decree, He is not deceiving the true Christian concerning his election
    - b) God cannot change, and as this is a part of His decree, the number and persons of His elect shall not change
    - c) As God has chosen us, our salvation does not depend on us
    - d) As God has chosen us and called us, He may have chosen others and will surely call them in due season through the the Gospel, so we are confident in our witnessing
  - 3) Thankfulness for God's grace in Sanctification (Song of Songs 1:5; Mt 5:6)
  - 4) Thankfulness for God's grace in Justification
  - 5) Thankfulness for God's grace in Glorification (1 Jn 3:2-3)

**II. Persevere in the True Faith (v 15).**

- A.** Prayer leads to action — *Therefore, brethren*
- 1) Prayer is a means of grace.
  - 2) God answers prayers through means.
  - 3) Let us make diligent use of prayer, particularly public prayer.
- B.** Christians are to Stand Fast — *Stand fast*
- 1) Not falling down, but standing fast. That is, we are to withstand temptations in prosperity, suffering, and uncertainty (Pr 24:16).
  - 2) Not blown around, but standing fast (Psa 34:6; Eph 4:14)
  - 3) Not running ahead, but standing fast.
  - 4) In the hour of temptation, we are to apply this passage
- C.** Christians are to Hold Firm
- 1) To what do we hold firm?
    - a) Not to the traditions of men (Mk 7:8)
    - b) But to the Apostolic Tradition (1 Cor 11:2)
    - c) We are bound to the Word of God (Jude 3-4; Jer 6:16)
  - 2) We need to be taught the Christian faith. Thus we are given:
    - (a) Christian Parents; (b) Elders and Deacons (Heb 13:17); and,
    - (c) The Communion of Saints
  - 3) We are to be handing on the faith to others.

**III. Pray for Perseverance (vv 16-17).**

- A.** We are to pray with Petitions as well as Thanksgiving
- B.** Our confidence in these petitions:
- 1) *Who has loved us* (1 Jn 4:8, 10; Jer 2:13)
  - 2) *Given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace* (Mt 4:4)
- C.** Our petitions to the Lord, as seen in this passage:
- 1) *Comfort your hearts* — our need for comfort:
    - a) That though there should be great apostasy from within the Church, and though there is great wickedness outside the Church, God will preserve and persevere His people.
    - b) That though we should suffer many things for the sake of Christ, the Gospel will advance and triumph in this world.
    - c) That though we should suffer many things because of the curse of sin, yet we have everlasting life in Christ
  - 2) *Establish you in every good word and work* (Mt 12:35-36)