

Stand Fast in the Truth
2 Thessalonians 2:15

Recall 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

vs. 15a “stand fast”

Ephesians 6:10-13, 17

vs. 15b “hold the traditions which you were taught”

The verb *paradídōmi* in such a context means to *hand down* or *pass down* or *deliver* an oral or written tradition.

The noun *parádosis*, used here, refers to the content of what has been handed down.

1 Corinthians 11:2, 23-25; 15:3-5; Jude 1:3

vs. 15c “whether by word or our epistle”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

John Stott helpfully observes that:

One other point may be made. Paul’s appeal for stability is made to the Thessalonians as *brothers* (15). This is a recognition that the context within which they were to ‘stand firm and hold to the teachings’ was the Christian fellowship, the family of God. In other words, we need each other. The church is the fellowship of faith, the society for sacred study, the hermeneutical community. In it we receive teaching from pastors who are duly authorized to expound the tradition of the apostles, we wrestle with its contemporary application, and we teach and admonish each other out of the same Scriptures. To be sure, private and personal Bible study is essential, and the Reformers were correct to emphasize ‘the right of private judgment’. Nevertheless, it also has its dangers. Left to ourselves, it is easy for us to misinterpret the Word of God, to put on it constructions it was never intended to bear, and even to manipulate it to suit our private prejudices. So we need the checks and balances of the Christian family, in order to help restrain our rampant individualism and establish us in the truth. It is the Bible in the church which can develop our Christian stability, and so strengthen us to withstand the pressures of persecution, false teaching, and temptation. (*The Gospel & the End of Time: The Message of 1 & 2 Thessalonians*, pp. 178-179)