

Home Group Helps

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Living in the Light of His Return: The Return of the King – Part 4

¹³ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

¹⁴ And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

I. Confusion Regarding the Day of the Lord (v.1-2)

II. What Signs Precede the Day of the Lord? (v.3-4)

- 1. The apostasy comes first (v.3a)**
- 2. The man of lawlessness is revealed (v.3b-4)**

III. What Restrains the Day of the Lord? (v.5-7)

IV. What Happens on the Day of the Lord? (v.8-12)

V. A Praise for Salvation (v.13-14) – ¹³ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴ And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

VI. A Challenge to Stand (v.15) – ¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

VII. A Benediction for Strength (v.16-17) – ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Have you ever struggled to fully grasp God the Father's love for you?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Verse 15 commands Christians to “stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught.” By “traditions” Paul means that there is a set body of doctrinal truths that God expects you to know.
- What are some of the traditions handed down by the prophets and elders (“by word *of mouth* or by letter from us”) that we practice, and should practice, in our church?
- What are some extra-Biblical or un-Biblical traditions taught in some churches that should be avoided?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What does Paul mean in v.13 that, “God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation?” (See: 1 Cor. 2:7, Col. 1:26, Eph. 1:4-6, Rev. 13:8. Gal. 1:15, Rom. 8:30).
- Why does the New Testament emphasize this fact that God chose us in Him before we were even born?
- Verse 16 tells us that there are three blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus:
 1. He (God) has loved us
 2. And given us eternal comfort
 3. And given us good hope
- Why are each of these blessings so important for us to understand?
- Paul says that this “good hope” is “by grace.”
- Why is our hope so connected to grace?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- If God chose us before we were even born, can a true Christian do anything to forfeit that salvation?

5. Application Question(s):

- Paul closes this section with a benediction, a “good word” of blessing on the Thessalonians. How can you bless someone with a “good word” this week?

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