

092919P

1. Pastoral desire - 1 Th 2:19 - *when He comes on that day* [2Th 1:10].
2. Context of 2Th 3:3-5 - God's preserving grace w/ Xn's persevering faith.

1st: The Certainty of God's Preserving Grace - v3-4a

1. *But the Lord is faithful: But => contrast w/ v2. A word play.*
 - i. 1 Th 5:24 God's faithfulness to persecuted church - *of Satan* [2Th 2].
 - ii. Faithfulness = attribute of covenant keeping God - Ps 12:1,2& 6,7.
2. *He will strengthen you:* prayer of 2Th 2:16-17 *strengthen*: support, sustain, establish, set firmly in place. Withstand opposition.
3. *He will protect you from the evil one: Protect - strengthen*
 - i. Grammar of *evil* - either *the evil* in general or *the evil one*, Satan. Context of chpt 2 commends *evil* associated w/ Satan in 3:3.
 - ii. Our Lord is w/ us on the battlefield - Rev 12.
 - iii. Last days = *difficult times* (2T3:1); intensified trib - wmn in travail. God will protect & stabilize & strengthen us [Isa 33:6; Jd 1:24-25]
4. v4 - *We have confidence in Ld concerning you: confidence:*
 - i. *in the Lord*: Phil 1:6; Hb 13:5-6
 - ii. *concerning you*: every believer in the church - all of faith - 1Th 2:13. Did any in Thess apostatize?
 - a. Demas - Col 4:14 & Phlm v24 then 2T 4:10 *Demas deserted & gone to Thess*.
 - b. Yet Paul is confident *concerning you* - i.e. *you who believe*. cf. turmoil in Gal - 1:6, yet 5:10 - same as 2Thes 3:3
 - c. Doct of salvation defines "*you*" - who believe & live by faith.

2nd: The Necessity of the Christian's Persevering Faith

1. Is it certain that Xn will live by faith? Yes: God's perspective [decretive will] - Jn 6:37; Jn 10:29; Lk 10:22. Cf Peter's confession Mat 16:16-17.
 - a. God's electing love - 2 Thes 2:13-14.

2. Will the Xn live the Xn life? From Xn's perspective - he MUST. Growth in sanctification is not optional - *living* faith is evidenced by one's *life*: *you are doing & will con't to do* = make, produce, translate apostolic gospel into practical life - not theory: words, deeds - *heart* - 2Th 2:16-17
3. Prescriptive will = *what we command* - cf 1Th 4:1-12; 2Th 3:6 = church discipline is obed to command of 1Thes 5:15.
 - i. Need discernment to distinguish the *weak* from the *unruly*.
 - ii. Perhaps Thess did not admonish *unruly* or *unruly* disregarded the admonition - now admonition is intensified - 2Thes 3:6; v14-15

3rd: The Necessity of God's Preserving Grace to Enable the Christian's Persevering Faith

1. Paul's prayerful petition for enabling grace - *May the Lord direct your hearts - Lord*: [v1,3,4,5,6]. We are securely united to resurrected Jesus.
 - i. *direct*: Ps 23:1.
 - ii. *your hearts*: prayer of 2:17. A Xn is one whose heart is led by Jesus, not by self. Jn Eadie: "Self-led hearts are usually misled hearts." Issue is the heart - not our circumstances or other people.
2. *into the love of God* - God's love for us or our love for God? Covenant love is reciprocal - as we pursue holiness, God reveals grter depths of love.
 - i. 1 Jn 4:9 - God's love for us: Jesus & 1 Jn 5:3 - our love for God: obed
 - ii. In context of emergence of Anti-X, Paul prays that we would live in communion w/ Father thru mediation of Son, alive by Spirit - Jn 14:21
3. *steadfastness of Christ*: Christ's steadfastness or our steadfastness?
 - i. See steadfast Jesus - Phil 2:8 -> not quit until *It is finished!* He con'ts as our steadfast faithful Hi Priest & King
 - ii. Grk term = *perseverance* [Lk 8:15; 21:19; Rev 14:12.
 - iii. Persevering faith works out of love & hope - R 8:24-25; Hb 10:36.
4. Opposition against biblical Xnty is mounting the world over - lift up your heads, the Lord is near. He shepherds the hearts of His people into His love & enduring faithfulness & hope for we are united to our crucified & exalted Lord Jesus Christ - 2Thes 3:3-5.