

## 2 Thessalonians

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish  
August 24, 2022



2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Vss. 13-14

- Paul shifts here to the guarantee of salvation from the Lord, and how we should always have an attitude of thankfulness. First, he is thankful for the people of the Thessalonian church itself. They are beloved by the Lord. The way vs. 13 is worded it seems that Paul understands that the Thessalonians are a gift of love from God to the growing world-wide Christian church. Second, Paul gives thanks to God for their salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and their faith in the truth. Sanctification is the process by which we grow in Christ, by which we mature as disciples, by which day by day we become more perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. This is the process where the Holy Spirit of God works within us to change our hearts, to give us new eyes, and to renew our minds, so that we may love more like Christ, see the world more like Christ, and think more like Christ, and thus act more like Christ. And all of this serves to give us more faith in the Truth, for we are able to see and understand and know the Truth more and more as the Spirit remakes us.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says, "For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ". Here it is so we "may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ". Glory is not quite the same as salvation, nor is it something that is added to it. Rather it is glory that defines salvation. It is the best word possible to explain the life we live in Christ, which is wonderful here on earth, but not yet fulfilled. Our life of glory will not be fully realized until we stand with the Lord in Heaven.

Vs. 15

- Paul moves now from thankfulness to exhortation and encouragement. Paul tell the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:2) to hold fast to the word which he preached to them. He tells the Philippians to hold fast (2:16) to the word of life. Here he exhorts the Thessalonians to stand firm and hold to what Paul has taught them, whether by mouth or letter. The phrase was mostly used in nautical terms related to a ship's ropes/lines. In a storm or high winds it was imperative that the crew hold fast to the lines, to hold as if their lives depended on it, because in fact their lives *DID* depend on it. Lose the lines, then you have lost the sails, and most likely then you have lost the ship. It was just this

life and death point of view that Paul is speaking to with all his churches. Hold on to the Truth as if your very life depends on it...because in fact, it does!

Vss.16-17

- Paul now closes this section with a prayer. He appeals personally to the Risen Christ, “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself...” so that the Thessalonians may better feel the personal connection to Christ they truly need. He reminds them that They are loved by both the Father and the Son who has already by grace given them “eternal comfort and good hope” so they will stop worrying about whether they will be remembered at the Second Coming.
- He prays that the Father and the Son will “comfort and strengthen their hearts”, not so they will feel ok while they are waiting around for Christ to return but so they will have their hearts and minds in the right place as they continue “in every good work and word”.
- So we see in these few verses something of the Christian life in a nutshell. 1) We are called by God. He chose us. We would know nothing of God if He had not taken the initiative and reached down to lift us up. 2) God did not call us and Jesus Christ did not die just for us to fill a spot on a pew at 11:00 on Sunday morning. We have been called and saved to pick up our cross and follow Him, to fulfill His purpose in our lives. 3) We are able to do that first as we are taught and learn The Way from those who know how to walk it and second, by the active participation and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. 4) All of this leads to lives that are different than we could have otherwise known, different from the lives around us who do not know Christ and further, as in the Christmas carol “Away in Manger”, all this leads us to sing “and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there”, for that is the goal of the Christian life.