

# 2 Thessalonians

Week 5 Stand Firm and Hold Fast

February 14, 2024

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13-16

The apostle Paul offers thanks to God for his brothers and sisters in Thessalonica. This is so important for keeping good church relationships. Praising God for His work in others and the relationships that have the potential for growth because of Christ. In this section Paul calls the believers to stand firm in the faith they have been called to. He reviews with them their standing in Christ and how their salvation was a work of the Godhead.

### 1. They are loved by God and chosen as firstfruits. Vs. 13a.

*Firstfruits: In acknowledgement of the fact that the products of the land came from God, and to show thankfulness for his goodness, the Israelites brought as an offering a portion of the fruits that ripened first. These were looked on as a pledge of the coming HARVEST. Such an offering was made both on behalf of the nation (Lev. 23:10, 17) and by individuals (Exodus 23:19; Deut. 26:1-11) These firstfruits went for the support of the priesthood. In a figurative use, Jesus is the firstfruits of all who die in faith. That is, the RESURRECTION of believers is made possible and is guaranteed by his resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20). Believers in turn are "a kind of firstfruits" of all that God created (James 1:18); the creation will share in the redemption of the children of God. (Romans 8:19-21) Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary page 480.*

*"Believers in Christ are picked from the tree of humanity by the Lord himself."*

### 2. Saved by the Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit through belief in the truth. Vs 13b

The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is that which makes us holy. Our position in Christ is secure because of the Holy Spirit. In that secured state, the Holy Spirit works in us, as we submit to Him to live holy lives in the here and now. Heb. 10:12-18; Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

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### 3. Called through the gospel- to share in Christ's glory. Verse 14

It is through the preaching of the good news of Jesus that people believe and share in the glory of Christ. Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:18; Romans 10:9-15

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### 4. Called to Stand Firm and Hold Fast. Vs 15

Because we are in Christ we are to stand against the powerful force of evil in the world. Not taking part in it. We are to live out what Christ has achieved for us eternally (Heb 10:12-18). We are also to hold fast to the word of God. Read, study meditate...

### 5. Recipients of God Love and Grace vs 16.

Our God is one of eternal:

Encouragement: Romans 15:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hope. Romans 15:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Strength. Isaiah 40:1-2,9-11, 28-31 \_\_\_\_\_

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