

# LOVED CHOSEN SANCTIFIED CALLED

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Ephesians 1:1-14

2 Peter 1:1-11

## We Live in Dangerous Times (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:3)

- MANY will fall away from the faith. (Matthew 7:21-23; 24:5-12; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:4)
- We are living in a time where God is handing us over to our lusts, desires, a debased mind, and a lie because many refuse to receive the love of the truth.
- Why will many fall away? (Matthew 13:20-22)
  - ① Tribulation, difficulties, trials. (Romans 5:3; Acts 14:22; )
  - ② Persecution because of the Word. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
  - ③ Cares of the world (family, careers, jobs, education, etc.)
  - ④ Deceitfulness of riches (see Revelation 3:14-22; Luke 12:13-21; 18:24-25; Proverbs 11:28) **Are you rich toward God?**

## BUT . . . (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

- This is the Greek word  $\delta\epsilon$  (deh) which means: "but; to the contrary; rather; on the other hand".
- Paul is drawing a CONTRAST between those who will suffer in "the Day of the LORD" . . .
  - Those who refused to **receive** the love of the truth of God.
  - Those on whom God would send a great delusion (lie) to *cause* them to believe a lie rather than the truth.
  - Those who are *already* condemned!!
  - MEDITATE: Do you love God's truth? Do you read it? Do you study it? Do you memorize it? (Psalm 119:11; 37:31; 40:8; Colossians 3:16) Do you meditate on it? (Psalm 1:1-3; 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; Joshua 1:8; 1 Timothy 4:15) Do you live on every word that proceeds from the mouth of the God of truth? (Luke 4:4) Do you LOVE God's truth in its entirety? (Psalm 119:160)



11 April 2021

★ . . . **and** a SPECIAL group of people - the ELECT in the church at Thessalonica! (2 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:11-14)

## Thanksgiving to God (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

- Paul says that **we** are **bound** (under obligation; owe; indebted to) to give thanks to GOD.
- Paul tells us to do this ALWAYS (at ALL times). (1 Thess 5:18; Philip 4:6)
- Paul gives God thanks for his **BROTHERS** and **SISTERS** in Christ.

## Loved By God (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

- These SPECIAL people (members of the family of God) are LOVED by the LORD.
- "beloved" is the Greek word  $\alpha\gamma\alpha\pi\acute{\alpha}\omega$  (agapao) which is willing (not based on emotions) unselfish, unconditional love. It literally means, "the ones loved by God" in this context. It is an *everlasting* love. See Jeremiah 31:3 - **MEDITATE!**
  - God chooses whom He will love! (Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Malachi 1:3-4; Romans 9:10-13)
- God love for HIS people is NOT based on anything in them! See Deut. 7:7-9. — God's love toward us is PURE and AMAZING GRACE.
- FIRST God loves and THEN His saints love. (1 John 4:19)
- God's love is a GREAT LOVE with which He loves US! (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- **"beloved" is never used for or about unbelievers.**

## BECAUSE . . . GOD Chose Us (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

- God CHOSE us from **the beginning!** (Ephesians 1:4)
  - God chose these to save them.
  - God, who is SOVEREIGN, chooses whom He wills. (Rom 9:16-18)
- This choice was made within God Himself. This choice was NOT BASED on anything we did or will do. (See Romans 9:11)
- Consider carefully the word "chose".
  - False view: God chooses those who will repent and believe.
  - BUT this view robs God of His choice! This view says that God must chose those who do something. God is not free but **obligated** to save. It states, "Believers **deserve** to be saved."
- God's PURPOSE for choosing us is that we might be HOLY and without BLAME **before** Him. (Ephesians 1:4)
- God **elects** us by His own FOREKNOWLEDGE. (1 Peter 1:2)
- This choice is based on PURE and AMAZING GRACE! (Romans 11:5-6)

## Chosen, then Sanctified (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

- "sanctified" - here it means "to be set apart" --

- ▶ GOD sets those whom He choose **unto** Himself as His special people. (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:11-14)
- ▶ GOD sets those whom He choose **out** of the world to be DIFFERENT from the world. (John 15:19; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
- The MEANS: Spirit and Word
  - ▶ The GOD who ORDAINS (appoints) the END also ORDAINS (appoints) the MEANS (way) in which HE WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE.
  - ▶ GOD begets (gives birth to eternal life) us according to HIS WILL (see John 1:13) **by the WORD of TRUTH**. (See James 1:18)
  - ▶ GOD gives us His SPIRIT **to cause us to walk in His commandments**. (Ezekiel 36:27)
  - ▶ One can believe **only by grace**. (Acts 18:27)
  - ▶ We are what we are **by the grace of GOD**. (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)
  - ▶ The giving of the SPIRIT is based on PURE and AMAZING GRACE. (John 3:8)
- “belief in the TRUTH” - **ONLY** the TRUTH (as recorded in the **written** Word) sets one free. (John 8:31-32)
- “belief” or “faith” is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). Believing is the result, NOT THE CAUSE, of God’s gift of eternal life bestowed on those who were DEAD in their sin. (Ephesians 2:1-5)

### Chosen, Sanctified, Called (2 Thessalonians 2:14)

- Again, God calls us (draws us: Jeremiah 31:3; **John 6:44**) not based on any good works of our own (we have none!). (See 2 Timothy 1:9)
- God called us according to His PURPOSE (Romans 8:28) – doing works that He has foreordained for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)
- This calling is a CALL that raises the DEAD. (John 11:43; Eph. 2:1-10)
- We were CALLED out of DARKNESS (confusion, blindness). (1 Peter 2:9)
- ALL whom God choses God calls! When God calls – things happen! (Psalm 33:9)
- ALL whom God calls He justifies - saves!
- This HOLY CALLING (Hebrews 3:1; 2 Timothy 1:9) leads to HOLY LIVING (1 Peter 1:15) and the PURSUIT of holiness. (Hebrews 12:14)
- This CALL is based on PURE and AMAZING GRACE. (2 Timothy 1:9)
- This is a CALL unto WORK and SERVICE. (Ephesians 2:10; James 2:14-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 20:26-28; 23:11; 25:21, 23; 24:46; Romans 12:1, 11; 1 Corinthians 7:22; Hebrews 12:28; Psalm 2:11)

### GOD Glorifies (2 Thessalonians 2:14)

- Because of God’s choice, His call, and His gift of faith we obtain **the glory of the LORD Jesus Christ**. – NOT a different glory! (See John 17:22)
- **ALL** that God chooses HE will GLORIFY. (Romans 8:30; Philippians 1:6)



#### GOLDEN CHAIN OF GRACE - ROMANS 8:28-30

- This GLORIFICATION is based on PURE and AMAZING GRACE. (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29)
- What God started in eternity past **HE** will complete it all the way to eternity! (Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Psalm 138:8)

### THEREFORE . . . BE STAND FIRM & HOLD (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

- This might seem strange after Paul has just expounded on that our salvation is ALL the work of God from beginning to end!
- “stand firm” (στήκω (steko)) (PRESENT - ACTIVE - IMPERATIVE)
  - 1 Cor 15:58; 16:13; Eph 6:11, 13, 14; Philippians 4:1
- **BEWARE:** 2 Peter 3:17-18; Matthew 7:21-23; 24:4-5, 11, 24
- “hold” (κρατέω (krateo)) - Deuteronomy 13:1-4
- Stand firm and hold to WHAT? - “the traditions” - Those things handed down from the Apostle Paul. (See Jude 3; Jeremiah 6:16-17) - NOT that which is just OLD but that which **AUTHENTIC. (In contrast to Matthew 15:1-9)**
- HOW DO WE STAND FIRM and HOLD?
  - The **ONLY WAY** to stand firm and hold is to use the *means* God has given us.
    - ① **PRAYER** - serious, watchful, fervent, vigilant, unceasing prayer (Luke 18:1; 1 Thess 5:17; Rom 12:12; Col 4:2, 12; 1 Peter 4:7)
    - ② **MEDITATION** on God’s Word - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 1 Timothy 4:15)
    - ③ **FELLOWSHIP** - Hebrews 10:25; 3:14; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 12:; Romans 12:4-5. A body **needs all** of its members. Members **need** to be intimately **connected** to the body in order to grow.
- ★ To believe that one can stand firm without using the means above is to guarantee that they will be numbered among the ones who will fall away from **the** faith. (1 Timothy 4:1)

### PAUL PRAYED for the ELECT (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

- Do you pray the same for your brothers and sisters?