Pastor Doug Kilchenman August 21, 2022

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: 2 *Thessalonians – verse by verse*

Scriptures for Today: 2Thessalonians 2:15-3:5 – Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold tight!

Today's Message:

"The Good Fight"

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued Paul's 2nd letter to the Thessalonians and learned the prophetic future following the Rapture of the Church for all that could have been saved and chose to reject Jesus Christ. Today, we will learn that after gaining a proper understanding of the epic battle described in chapter 2 for the **SOULS** of men, we should be stirred up! Are you on the Lord's side? Do you care about the truth? Are these things worth living and dying for? Then, it is for this cause that the Holy Spirit now exhorts His people to **STAND** and *hold fast the traditions* and truth which we have been taught. There is a fight that is **GOOD**, and we must *fight the good fight* for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

REVIEW: ***That Day*** **– believers were shaken in MIND and troubled about future events. (1-2)**
REVIEW: ***That Apostasy*** **– Paul taught the Rapture will be preceded by a FALLING AWAY. (3a)**
REVIEW: ***That Man*** **– Paul and the word of God have clearly REVEALED that man of sin. (3b-4)**
REVIEW: ***The Doctrine*** **– the believers KNEW well the doctrine of the antichrist. (5-6)**
REVIEW: ***The Mystery*** **– Satan had and has OPPOSED God throughout human history. (6-9a)**
REVIEW: ***The Victor*** **– that Wicked will be revealed, and then DESTROYED by Jesus Christ. (8)**
REVIEW: ***The Lying Wonders*** **– the antichrist will come with GREAT deception. (9)**
REVIEW: ***The Strong Delusion*** **– Christ rejectors will BELIEVE a lie and be damned. (10-12)**
REVIEW: ***The Saving Faith*** **– thanks be to God for SAVING all who trust Christ now. (13-14)**

A. The Text 2 Thessalonians 2:15-3:5

#1. A Good Fight – the righteous are thankful and BOLD as a lion! (15-17)

THEREFORE, BRETHREN

- ✓ The righteous must **STAND**! *STAND **fast**… **1Cor 16:13; Gal 5:1; Php 4:1; 1Ths 3:8***
- ✓ God's truth must not **FALL**! *And HOLD… **1Sam 3:19; Pr 28:1; 1Tim 6:12; 2Tim 4:7***
- ✓ Keep the good **TRADITIONS**! *The TRADITIONS… been **taught**… **2Ths 3:6; 2Tim2:2***
- ✓ God has given us **MUCH**! *LOVED **us**…EVERLASTING **consolation**…GOOD **hope**…**Lk12:48***
- ✓ God will personally **CARE** for you! *Now our Lord Jesus Christ HIMSELF, and God…*
- ✓ He will handle **EVERYTHING**! *COMFORT…STABLISH you in **every good word and work**.*

"***Tradition***" is found 13 times in KJB. Only 2 times a *positive* context.

NOTE It is reasonable to respond to God's eternal gifts by joining Him in His work!

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. A Good Weapon – this epic spiritual battle requires humble PRAYERS! (1-2)

PRAYER REQUEST #1: THE WORD OF THE LORD

Hebrews 4:12 says *the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword!*

- ✓ The victory comes on our **KNEES**! *Brethren, PRAY for us…* ***Ps 9:12; Eph 6:18; Col 4:3***
- ✓ The word of God is not **BOUND**! *That THE WORD of the Lord…* ***Isa 55:11; 2Tim 2:9***
- ✓ The devil always tries to **HINDER**! *May have FREE COURSE…* ***1Cor 16:9; 1Ths 2:13,18***
- ✓ The word of God must be **EXALTED**! *And be GLORIFIED…* ***Ps 138:2; Acts 13:48-49***

NOTE This prayer request focused on the word of God with its life-changing power!

PRAYER REQUEST #2: UNREASONABLE AND WICKED MEN

W1828 "*Unreasonable*" Not agreeable to reason; irrational.

- ✓ The adversaries will **TROUBLE** you! *That we may be DELIVERED…* ***Jn 17:15; 2Tim 4:18***
- ✓ The adversaries will be **UNREASONABLE**! *From UNREASONABLE…* ***Acts13:50; 14:2; 19:34***
- ✓ The adversaries will be **WICKED**! *And WICKED men…* ***Gen 13:13; 2Ths 2:8; 1Jn 3:12***
- ✓ You should not be **SURPISED**! *For all men have NOT faith.* ***Deut 32:20; 2Cor 4:4***

NOTE This prayer request was for God to deliver from those who will oppose Him!

#3. A Good Shepherd – no matter what happens, the Lord is FAITHFUL! (3-5)

THE LORD IS FAITHFUL

- ✓ God is **FOR** you Christian! *But the Lord is FAITHFUL…* ***Ps 34:8; 100:5; Lam 3:25; Nah 1:7***
- ✓ God will **BUILD** you up! *Who shall STABLISH you…* ***Eph 4:15; Col 2:7; 2Ths 2:17***
- ✓ God will **PROTECT** you! *And KEEP you from evil…* ***Mt 6:13; Jn 17:15; Jude 24***
- ✓ God can be **TRUSTED**! *And we have CONFIDENCE in the Lord…* ***Gal 5:10; Php 1:6***
- ✓ God is a good **SHEPHERD**! *And the Lord DIRECT your hearts…* ***Ps 23; Jn 10:11, 14***
- ✓ The **LOVE** of God secures you! *Into the LOVE of God…* ***Rom 5:5; 8:39; 2Cor 13:14***
- ✓ The **HOPE** of God comforts you! *Into the PATIENT WAITING for Christ…* ***1Ths 4:18***

NOTE Why do we often feel discouraged? Is it not because we forget these things?

B. The Application (How will *you* apply this truth to *your* life?)

1. *There is a good fight; the word of God says, "Fight the* **GOOD** *fight of faith."*

QUESTION *What are you doing in the good fight? Standing? Discipling?* ***1Tim 6:12***

2. *God has given much; the word of God says, "Of him shall be much* **REQUIRED***."*

QUESTION *Has your Lord given you much? What then will you do for your Lord?* ***Lk 12:48***

3. *Pray that God's word would have free course and be* **GLORIFIED** *in your life.*

QUESTION *Do you love it? read it? share it? The word of God is not bound!* ***2Tim 2:9***

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