

Beloved of the Lord

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

¹³But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

¹⁴Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to be the beloved of God?

1. Strong's for beloved – agapao, to love dearly. This is the word we get agape from, it is unconditional, it is a deep, fervent love. Who is privileged to be called by this name by God Himself?
1. Mathew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".
2. Paul tells us in verse 13 of our text that we are also called beloved of the Lord. This word beloved is reserved for special people. Because we are chosen by the Lord we belong to a special group of people chosen to be the beloved of the Lord. We are His special treasure, because we have chosen to believe the truth of His word and give ourselves freely to walking in His way.

What are the blessings that come with being the Lords beloved?

1. Benefit #1; We have salvation through sanctification of the Spirit. As we know in Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might

shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. What an incredible benefit of being beloved by the Lord!! He provided salvation by allowing His Beloved Son to die in our place so that we can have everlasting life, then He provided, by His Spirit, faith for us to be able to believe, and all this is for free!! Now that is what I would call being beloved!

2. Benefit #2; Sanctification of the spirit. The word sanctification, “hagiasmos” in the Greek means to be purified or made holy. The Holy Spirit does this work in us because God tells us to be Holy as He is Holy. We cannot do this on our own so He provides His beloved with the Holy Spirit to sanctify us and we wrap His holiness around us and thus become holy and set apart and acceptable to Him. (example of the lamb)
3. Benefit #3: Being beloved comes with a kind of love that exceeds all other love. Agape love. God loves us and gave us an everlasting promise that nothing can separate us from it. Romans 8:38-39, **For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** Are you starting to get the idea of just what it means to be beloved by the Lord?! Wherever you are, are you soaking in the fullness of what God is saying to us when He calls us His beloved!
4. Benefit #4: We are obtaining the Glory of Jesus Christ. God see’s us growing by our good works and faith in His truth. In the midst of this process we start to look more and more like our Lord Jesus because of our love for one another and our obedience to His word. As we do this we obtain some glory in Jesus. We long to hear at

the end of our journey Well done my good and faithful servant. This is our “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased” Just as was it pronounced over Jesus so will it be pronounced over us as His beloved!

There are many, many more benefits of being His beloved, we just don't have time tonight to explore them all. Believe me if you meditate on all the blessings we have as His beloved you cannot help but walk away with a refreshed heart.

There are also responsibilities that come with being the beloved of the Lord. Things that Paul calls good works that we were created for as we read earlier in [Ephesians 3:10](#) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Again in [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#); Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

Responsibility #1: We are to love God; He is to be our beloved. This is our #1 purpose as a beloved of the Lord to love Him with all of our heart, soul and mind. Our love for Him must be the same as His love to us. All the benefits we enjoy as His beloved are experienced in our love for Him. This verse says we are to love Him with ALL of our heart and ALL of our soul and ALL of our mind. What part of ALL don't we understand? Oh how I am cut to the quick with how much I keep for myself and don't give ALL to Jesus. Lord help me to be more like you and be found worthy of the title beloved.

Responsibility #2: We are to love others as we love ourselves. In order to love others as we love ourselves, we first need to love ourselves. How can we give what we don't have? Loving yourself becomes much easier when we can see ourselves as God see's us. He sees us as His children, as His bride, as His beloved. When we have the same image of ourselves that God has of us we can then love others. Let's face it without the help

and guidance of the Holy Spirit we have already lost the battle but we do have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and with His help we can love others. In 1 Peter he tells us to love one another fervently, 1 Peter 4:7-8 - But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. What does it mean to have fervent love? Well let's look at the other verse where this same word is used in a slightly different manor. Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. The word earnestly in this verse is the same as fervent in 1 Peter, can you imagine if we would really love one another with this fervent love? Paul uses the term beloved in talking with many of the Christians who have heard his message of salvation and responded to the call of the Lord. If that's you and you have responded to the salvation call you are not only the beloved of the Lord but also of your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Mathew tells us that the Lord said if we will do these two things Love God and Love one another the Law and the prophets will be fulfilled. Mathew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, "you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" This is the first and great commandment. "And the second is like it:" You shall love your neighbor as yourself" On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

My good friend Greg See who used to attend here and would sometimes do announcements, would greet us on those mornings with this statement; "Good morning you sons and daughters of the living God." I was always blessed by that statement because it reminded me of just who I am in Christ Jesus! Thanks Greg I miss you. It is always good to be reminded of who we truly are in our walk with the Lord, so I was thinking as we talked about this in home fellowship last week wouldn't it be great to remind one another that we are the beloved of the Lord. I suggested to our group that maybe during our greeting time on Sunday it would be appropriate to share this message with those we greet. So I am

going to steal my friend Greg's idea of a greeting but modify it just a little. Good morning you beloved sons and daughters of the living God.

Now I would be remiss if I didn't extend an invitation to anyone who has never experienced this amazing love that God has to offer. It is really pretty straight forward, if right now there is something tugging at your heart and your thinking I would like to experience what Rock is talking about in my life. All that you need to do is to profess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He gave His life so that you would have this opportunity tonight to accept Him. If you will do that you will be saved from your sin and become beloved of the Lord. Perhaps you are beloved of the Lord and as I have been convicted in my heart in preparing this message that there are areas of my life that I have not given ALL to the Lord. You can experience a refreshing in your heart if you too will confess whatever is in your way of giving your ALL to Jesus. If you are sincere He will be your strength and deliverer. For me I want to be ALL in for Jesus.

Let's pray

Beloved of the Lord, may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. May He cause you to abound in Love and unity. May He draw you to a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with Him and those you come in contact with. May your love be fervent towards the family of God. Amen