

# “Your Salvation Testimony”

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

There are big changes coming to the world. The return of Jesus will bring a time of judgement for those who reject Jesus and deliverance for those who belong to Jesus.

And the good news is that we are saved! This is our testimony. But how did salvation happen, and how can we see salvation happen in others?

This is your salvation testimony.

### 1. SALVATION BEGINS WITH GOD (2 THESSALONIANS 2:13)

#### A. This is why Paul thanks God—Not them—for their salvation. Salvation is by God’s grace! (Verse 13)

- i. *Ephesians 2:1<sup>1</sup> And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*
- ii. *Ephesians 2:4–5<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*

#### B. Did God choose us, or did we choose him? “YES!” to both. Let’s start with God choosing us:

- i. *Ephesians 1:4–6<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*
- ii. *“It is a good thing God chose me before I was born, because he surely would not have afterwards.” – C.H. Spurgeon*
- iii. *John 15:19<sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*
- iv. *2 Timothy 1:9<sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

#### C. He chose you because he loves you! (And not because of your love for Him or your goodness) (Verse 13)

- i. *ISRAEL: Deuteronomy 7:6<sup>6</sup> “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for*

*Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.*

- ii. *Deuteronomy 7:7–8<sup>7</sup> The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup> but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers...*
- iii. *1 Corinthians 1:26–27<sup>26</sup> For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty*

## **2. SALVATION IS APPLIED WHEN WE HEAR AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL. (2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-14)**

### **A. “Sanctification by the Spirit” – The Holy Spirit must be at work in the heart to open blind eyes and help us separate from the world. (Verse 13)**

- i. *“It is the Spirit that sheds the love of God abroad in their hearts, and the love of all mankind; thereby purifying their hearts from the love of the world, from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. It is by Him they are delivered from anger and pride, from all vile and inordinate affections.” – John Wesley*
- ii. *John 16:8<sup>8</sup> And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*
- iii. *2 Corinthians 4:3–4<sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*
- iv. *1 Corinthians 2:10–12<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

### **B. “Belief in the truth” – We have been given free will and we must choose to either accept or reject Jesus (Verse 13)**

- i. *John 3:16<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- ii. *John 3:18*<sup>18</sup> “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- iii. “The elect are whosoever will, and the non-elect, whosoever won't.” – Henry Ward Beecher

**C. “Called by our gospel” – The message must be clearly presented. There is no salvation without the message of the cross**

- i. *1 Corinthians 1:23–24*<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- ii. *Romans 1:16*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- iii. *Romans 10:13–14*<sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
- iv. *Ephesians 1:13*<sup>13</sup> In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- v. “We talk of the second coming, half the world has never heard of the first.” - Oswald J. Smith

**3. SALVATION IS FULFILLED WHEN WE ARE GLORIFIED WITH CHRIST (2 THESSALONIANS 2:14)**

- i. *1 Peter 5:10*<sup>10</sup> But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.
- ii. *Romans 8:29–30*<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

**4. SALVATION IS WITNESSED WHEN WE STAND FAST (2 THESSALONIANS 2:15-17)**

**A. To God’s Word (Verse 15)**

- i. “The B-I-B-L-E, Yes that's the book for me, I stand alone on the Word of God, The B-I-B-L-E.”

**B. To God’s Love (Verse 16)**

- i. *Romans 5:8*<sup>8</sup> *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- ii. “Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” - C.S. Lewis

### **C. To God’s Grace (Verses 16-17)**

- i. *Romans 5:1–2*<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*<sup>2</sup> *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*