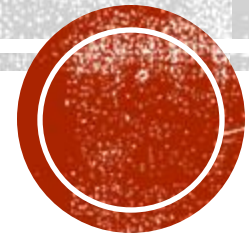


2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

Crack of Dawn

March 28, 2024





CONTEXT OF 2 THESSALONIANS

- One, of several, reasons for Paul's letters to the Thessalonians was because they were experiencing present distress based upon their misunderstanding of future things. Eschatology matters!



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- One, of several, reasons for Paul's letters to the Thessalonians was because they were experiencing present distress based upon their misunderstanding of future things. Eschatology matters!
- The Problems:
 1. Grieving over the loss of loved ones (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
 2. Discouraged about the Day of the Lord (1 Thess. 5:1-11)
 3. Fearful that the DOL already happened (**2 Thess. 2:1-17**)

Today's passage



CONTEXT

- Response after correct teaching:

1. “Therefore ***comfort*** one another with these words (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

2. “Therefore ***encourage*** one another and ***build*** one another” (1 Thess. 5:11)

3. “But we should always ***give thanks*** to God” (2 Thess. 2:13)

Today's passage



CONTEXT – TODAY'S PASSAGE

- These believers have been “quickly disturbed”, “shaken” because they believe the Day of the Lord has already happened (2 Thess. 2:1-2). They are fearful.
- Paul gives two reasons why they should not be shaken:
 1. Certain events to happen (2:3-12)
 2. You aren't destined for wrath, but for salvation (2:13-14)

Today's passage



THANKFULNESS INSTEAD OF FEAR (2:13-14)

- In the context of the Day of the Lord:
 - Judgment for "them" (2:8-12)
 - Salvation for "you" (2:13-14)



SALVATION FROM WHAT?

- Salvation from the judgement/wrath of the Day of the Lord
 - Immediate context is about the Day of the Lord, not hell
 - Emphasis throughout 1 Thessalonians (1:10, 5:9)



HOW ARE THEY SAVED?

- God has chosen deliverance from the Day of the Lord for:
 - Those who are sanctified by the Spirit (Positional, one-time sanctification – Acts 26:18, 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:11, Heb. 10:10)
 - Those who have faith in the truth
 - Ultimately, it is all by God's grace!



REASONS FOR THANKFULNESS

1. You will not experience the wrath of the Day of the Lord (2:8-13)
2. You are beloved by God (2:13)
3. You have been chosen from the beginning (2:13). Nothing can change God's choice.
4. You have been sanctified (2:13)
5. You will gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2:14)

We do not deserve any of this.



STABILITY INSTEAD OF FEAR (2:15)

- Stand firm and hold fast to the truth.
- These “traditions” by letter or word of mouth are now are present Scripture.



COMFORT AND STRENGTH INSTEAD OF FEAR (2:16-17)

- Notice **WHO** the prayer is directed too – “the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father”
- Notice **HOW** they are described – “loved us”, “given us eternal comfort and good hope”, “by grace.”
- Notice **WHAT** is being prayed for – “comfort and strength in every good work”

Because of the *WHO* the prayer is directed towards and *HOW* we relate to God, the *WHAT* is possible.



THE DIVINE/HUMAN PARTNERSHIP OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION

- YOU stand firm & hold fast (2:15) / GOD will comfort and strengthen you (2:16-17)
- Other Examples:
 - 1 Thessalonians: 3:11-13 (prayer) 4:1-5:22 (exhortation) 5:23-24 (prayer)
 - Colossians 1:29
 - Galatians 2:20
 - 1 Timothy 4:7
 - Romans 8:13



DIRECTED APPLICATION:

- Spend time with someone this week listing all (many of) the things you can be thankful for. This can be both spiritual and physical things
- How are you actively standing firm on the Word of God? When you experience fear, are you able to trace it back to unbelief in God and His Word?
- How does the Divine/human partnership look in your life? Are you out of balance?

