



**2 THESSALONIANS SERIES – 14**  
**PREPARING FOR THE END TIMES – Pt 5**  
**“STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH IN TRIALS”**  
**2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

**INTRODUCTION**

**“Stand fast”** - *steko* - 1 Cor. 16:13; Gal 5:1; Phil 1:27; 4:1; 1 Thess. 3:8

**1. THE REASONS FOR THIS EXHORTATION - 13-17**

**“But”** - *de* - in contrast to those who will believe the lie of the Antichrist.

**“because”** - *hoti* - he gives the reasons why he feels so compelled to thank God for them.

**Remember...**

Your responsibility, by God’s enabling, is to constantly apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Tim. 4:7-9; James 1:22-27).

As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions:

How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?

How can I accomplish this change?

What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

### **A. The CHOICE of God - 13**

*“chose” – haireomai - aorist middle - “to take for one’s self”*

- **When** He chose us - *“as the firstfruits” - “from the beginning”*  
*Eph. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9*

- **Why** He chose us - *“to be saved” – eis*

- **How** He chose us

*“through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”*

*1 Peter 1:2, 18-25; Acts 13:48*

### **B. The CALLING of God – 14 – “To this He called you through our gospel”**

*“called” – kaleō - God’s effectual call of believers to salvation*

*Romans 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:9; John 17:22, 24; Romans 8:17-18; Gal. 1:6; Eph. 4:1*

### **C. The COMMANDMENTS of God - 15**

*“hold to the traditions that you were taught by us”*

*“traditions” – paradosis - literally means “things handed down/divine revelation*

*1 Cor. 11:2, 23; 2 Thess. 3:6*

### **D. The COMFORT of God - 16-17**

## Standing Firm in Trials

### 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

***To stand firm and not fall away in your trials, keep God's perspective with regard to eternity and time.***

**1. The need during trials and times of spiritual deception is to stand firm and hold to the apostolic teachings.**

verse 15: "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us."

**A. Stand firm.**

"Stand firm" is a present tense command, indicating that this isn't a one-time need. We could translate it, "Keep standing firm." In 1

**B. Hold to the apostolic teachings.**

Paul continues (2 Thess. 2:15), "... and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us." "Hold to" means, "have a firm grip on." But, what does Paul

**2. To stand firm and not fall away during trials, keep God's perspective with regard to eternity.**

**A. In eternity past, God chose you for salvation.**

2 Thess. 2:13: "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth." In passing, note

*(1) God chose you because He loved you.*

Paul mentions this twice, once in verse 13 and again in verse 16. He is repeating what he said in 1 Thessalonians 1:4, "knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you."

*(2) God chose you for salvation.* "Salvation" stands in contrast to the horrible condemnation that all who do not receive the love of the truth will face (2 Thess. 2:10-12). As Paul said (2 Thess.

*(3) God's choosing you makes your salvation secure.* That's Paul's point here, to reassure the

*(4) God's choosing you is effected through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*

**B. In eternity future, God has destined you to gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Thess. 2:14: "It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul has already

**3. To stand firm and not fall away during trials, keep God's perspective with regard to time.**

In verses 13 & 14, the focus is on eternity. In verses 16 & 17, Paul's prayer points us back and then ahead, with regard to time. Both the

**A. In the past, God has worked in our lives in salvation.**

2 Thess. 2:16: "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace ...." In passing, note how Paul elevates

**B. In the present and future, God is working to comfort us in trials and to strengthen our hearts in every good work and word.**

Also, when He saved us, God gave us "good hope by grace."