

Called and Comforted
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Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

2 Thessalonians: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: Chosen for Salvation

Central Idea of Message: Believers in God's truth are to hold tenaciously to the teachings of the apostles as expressed in the New Testament, knowing that those whom God has called he will comfort.

Introduction: In stark contrast to the dark portrait of the man of lawlessness described in the previous paragraph, believers are portrayed as called and comforted by God.

I. Praise of God's Calling (vv. 13-15)

A. We should always give thanks to God for others (v. 13)

1. Believers are probably in mind in particular
2. All people are in mind in general
3. Because they are all beloved by the Lord
4. Because God has chosen from the beginning to save repentant humans: taken for himself, adopted
 - a) Through sanctification by the Holy Spirit
 - (1) Done to the believer
 - (2) Inner cleansing of past, present, and future sin
 - (3) Entire separation of the life to God
 - (4) Sudden, as in regeneration, then gradual, as in surrendering of personal territory
 - b) By faith in the truth: done by the believer
 - (1) Faith in the truth saves
 - (2) Faith in a lie condemns
 - c) Unto salvation: points to the final instalment and completion of salvation

B. The reason why God calls all people to salvation through the apostolic gospel (v. 14)

1. **That all may gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ**
2. So it is glory which God wants to bestow, not merely an eternal existence of bliss

C. **The things to do after salvation (v. 15)**

1. **Stand firm: do not sit or recline**
2. **Hold to the traditions which you were taught**
 - a) Taught by Paul and his companions
 - b) **The value of tradition is not based on its form but on its source and the quality of its content (cf. Robertson 4:55)**
 - (1) Traditions, then, are based on external authorities
 - (2) Traditions are messages received from someone else, either in oral or written form
 - c) This implies a perpetual process of instruction in apostolic doctrine
 - d) Those untaught in apostolic doctrine become prey for cults: we best be in Sunday school, some discipleship training, and worship services
 - e) We retain, and are obligated to observe, traditions supported in Scripture
 - f) Tradition does not establish doctrine but can authenticate fact (cf. Faussett)
 - g) Ministers best go to seminary and learn before they try to teach or preach
 - h) Those untaught in apostolic doctrine who teach can often do more harm than good
 - i) It is no accident that the highly trained Saul of Tarsus learned for years from Peter and others before launching out on his own
3. Learning may take place by way of oral instruction
 - a) Preaching
 - b) Seminary
 - c) Bible study
 - d) Seminars
 - e) Conferences
4. Learning may take place by way of written instruction
 - a) Apostolic letters
 - b) All books of the Bible
 - c) Reading of related materials
 - d) Learning how to write so as to make a lasting contribution to the body of Christian scholarship to be passed down to others

II. **Prayer for God's Comfort (vv. 16-17)**

- A. God himself (v. 16)

1. Loves you
 2. Gives eternal comfort, consolation
 3. Gives good hope by grace: there is no hope without grace
- B. Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 16-17)
1. **Comforts: the consolation and courage given by Christ are beyond anything the world can give**
 2. Strengthens hearts
 - a) **In every good work: whatever is done**
 - b) **In every good word: whatever is said**

Conclusion: If you are human, you are called to salvation. If you are saved, you are comforted by God. Are you saved?