

## II THESSALONIANS

### Saved and Sanctified to Gain Glory

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 (*Discussion Group Leader Helps*)

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**2 Thess. 2:13-15:** *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. 14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.*

- I. What was the Apostle Paul's desire towards the Thessalonian believers according to first part of vs. 13? Is this something every believer should practice?
  - A. Read I Chron. 16:7-8, 34-35, 41.
  - B. Read I Thess. 5:18.
  - C. Read Heb. 13:5.
  - D. What is wrong with a Christian not "*always giving thanks to God?*" What does ingratitude reveal about our hearts?
    1. Read Luke 17:11-19.
    2. Read Rom. 1:21.
    3. Read II Tim. 3:2.
  
- II. In the rest of vss. 13-14 the Apostle Paul gives nine reasons why both he and his companions "*should always be giving thanks to God?*" for the Thessalonian believers. These nine reasons are listed below. Consider each one at a time and discuss "why" they should produce thanks in us:
  - A. Because they were "*brethren*" (See also Phil. 4:1; Heb. 13:1).
  - B. Because they were beloved "*by the Lord*" (Deut. 7:7-8; Psa. 37:28).
  - C. Because "*God has chosen you*" (See also II Tim. 2:10).
    1. Also, the "*elect*" (See also Mt. 24:22, 24, 31).
    2. Also, the "*predestined*" (See Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 1:3-5).
    3. Also, the "*appointed*" (See also Acts 11:8; 13:48).

4. Also, those who are *“known”* (See also Mt. 7:21-23).
- D. Because God chose you *“from the beginning”* (See also II Tim. 1:9).
  - E. Because God chose you *“for salvation.”* This is the primary intention of God in this text, the salvation of sinners (See also Rom. 5:9; I Thess. 1:10).
  - F. Because God chose you *“through sanctification.”* Sanctification speaks of being set apart from sin to God. The Bible speaks of being set apart for salvation from eternity past, set apart initially at salvation, set apart in an ongoing progressive way throughout our lives as believers, and ultimately being set apart from sin completely after death, resurrection, or glorification.
  - G. Because God chose you, to sanctify you, *“by the Spirit.”* The Holy Spirit is the agent of our sanctification and primarily uses the Word of God to make us more like Jesus (See also I Thess. 4:7; I Pet. 1:2).
  - H. Because God chose you, to sanctify you, *“by . . . faith”* (See also Eph. 2:8-10; II Tim. 3:15).
  - I. Because God chose you, to sanctify you, by faith *“in the truth”* (See also Psa. 119:9; Jn. 17:17).
  - J. Because God *“called you”* (See also Rom. 8:28; 11:29).
  - K. Because God called you *“through the gospel”* (See also I Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 1:13).
  - L. Because God called you *“that you might gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (See also Eph. 3:19; I Thess. 2:12).
  - M. Who does all of the nine things we just looked at in our text? Why is it important to understand “who is acting” and “who is receiving?”
- III. Having given the Thessalonian believers, and all believers for that matter, many reasons to *“always give thanks to God,”* the Apostle Paul gives two commands as our proper response to the manifold grace of God stated in vss. 13-14.
- Discuss how and why every believer must obey the two commands below.  
Consider the consequence of not obeying the two commands below.
- A. *“Stand firm”* (See also I Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:11-14)!
  - B. *“Hold to”* Apostolic teaching (See also II Tim. 1:13; Jude 3)!

**Prayer topics:** Thankfulness to the Lord for all that He has done for us. Standing firm and holding onto the sound doctrine that was taught by the Apostles.