

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

### An Act of Love

#### 1. We Ought to Thank God 13, 14

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring." -2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 ESV

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 ESV

- A. Brothers
- B. Having Been Loved

"For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake." -1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 ESV

#### C. First Fruits

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."  
James 1:16-18 ESV

"The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him." -Deuteronomy 18:4 ESV

"We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord;"  
Nehemiah 10:35 ESV

#### Saved through Sanctification

"Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control

his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you." -1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 ESV

"You shall sanctify him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I, the Lord, who sanctify you, am holy." -Leviticus 21:8 ESV

"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV

Belief in the truth in contrast to verse 10

"and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." -2 Thessalonians 2:10 ESV

- D. Called through the Gospel
- E. Obtaining the Glory of the Lord

"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him." -1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 ESV

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." -1 Corinthians 15:20-23 ESV

#### 2. Stand Firm! 15

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." -Ephesians 6:11 ESV

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness," -Ephesians 6:13-14 ESV

- A. Hold to the Traditions
  - B. Discipleship
- By spoken word or by our letter

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." -Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

### **3. Much Needed Comfort** 16, 17

#### A. Again the Work of the Lord

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." -Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

#### B. For the purpose of the Lord's Work

*Reflection:*

1. *How have you found comfort in Jesus in recent days? How might you need His comfort now?*
2. *Does God's process of making you holy seem like an act of love to you today?*

### ***Follow UP in the Word through the Week...***

**Monday:** 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4. What did Paul observe to be thankful for in these verses? How do you see that in your church experience and in your personal life?

**Tuesday:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. What did Paul compliment the Thessalonians on in these verses? How would you describe these qualities? What would it look like in the church today?

**Wednesday:** James 1:16-18. What are "firstfruits" and where does the concept come from (Deuteronomy 18:4)? How might that help to fully appreciate what James is saying here?

**Thursday:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. What commands does Paul give to them? What is sanctification and what impact does it have on your life?

**Friday:** 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10. What assurance does this verse give the believer?

**Saturday:** Ephesians 2:8-10. What is described in these verses? What should follow from the work of grace in our lives according to verse 10?