

Ministry of the Trinity

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Verse 13 is one of those remarkable verses of the Bible. All three members of the Godhead are mentioned. Salvation from beginning to end is clarified.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

¹³ **But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord,**

But (after a direct dissertation on those who refuse to trust the love of God at the cross, Paul cordially moves to a discussion on these believers in Thessalonica and in principal to all believers throughout the Church Age.)

There is a compare/-/contrast between unbelievers and believers in JESUS CHRIST the Greek particle used here translated **but** denotes a transition from one group of people to another. Here from unbelievers to believers.

But we should the Passive Active Indicative means that Paul and his team are under this obligation everyday. And along with the adverb **always** every time he prays in respect of these believers. Praying for others, giving thanks for others is a prayer priority for Paul as we saw in 1 Thessalonians 1:2 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

Now what is his obligation?:
to give thanks to God for you

1. All prayer is addressed to GOD THE FATHER, the author of the plan; the one who sent JESUS CHRIST to die for the redemption of sin and who sent to us GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT to empower and lead us in living the Christian Way of Life and bringing to him those who love the teaching of the truth.
2. All prayer is addressed to GOD THE FATHER, the author of the plan; the one who sent JESUS CHRIST to die for the redemption of sin and who sent to us GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT to empower and lead us in living the Christian Way of Life and bringing to him those who love the teaching of the truth.
3. His prayer now is one of *thanksgiving* ***eucharisteo*** where we get the English word *eucharis* lets examine this: First, Paul is giving thanks to GOD THE FATHER; and he is giving thanks for these believers.
4.

Question:
Why?
Why is Paul thanking GOD THE FATHER for these believers?
Perhaps we can learn something about our own prayer life.
5. **We are to give thanks for everything.**
(1 Thessalonians 5:18) for it works together for good
(Romans 8:28) Thanksgiving is based on the Lord and His work. God provides everything and this is grace for which we should always give thanks.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

13 **But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, —or— having been loved by the Lord.**

Believers are described as

(1) brethren.

(2) beloved of the Lord.

This is the Perfect Passive Participle. **agapao** to esteem, to Love. The Passive Voice means they and all of us who are saved receive being the Love of the Lord.

Ok, people does the Lord Love those who are to perish?
Yes, but they will still perish.

People in their sloppy thinking today have the idea that loving or even forgiving means the absence of judgment. It does not!

GOD THE FATHER loves His own son, JESUS CHRIST.

But in Isaiah 53:10 we have a very sobering declaration:

10 **But the Lord (GOD THE FATHER) was pleased to crush Him JESUS CHRIST (His own son) putting Him JESUS CHRIST to grief, if He JESUS CHRIST would render Himself as a guilt offering.**

Please understand what Love is and what Righteousness is and how they are both part of how God deals with all members of the Human Race.

Out of Love He offers a Grace Offering of His Son on the Cross, but out of His Righteousness, He Judges everyone according to their decision about His Son.

Beloved is our position at the moment of salvation when the one who believes in JESUS CHRIST is placed into Christ by the Holy Spirit. God's love is free to come to man because His Righteousness and Justice are satisfied at the cross. We are always loved by God regardless of what others think of us. He is Faithful and Immutable, regardless of what we think of Him.

We have a strong contrast of two phrases:
in verse 10 **they did not receive the love of the truth**
while in verse 13 **faith in the truth.** Truth refers to the gospel of *"believe in Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."*

So, the contrast between the two responses to the Truth:
in verse 10 **...will perish**
while in verse 13 **...for salvation.**

People there is a real and true destiny for all people...

..some will perish for all eternity

..while some will be saved eternally

..and what determines where you will be is

..whether or not you believe in JESUS CHRIST as your Savior.

Beloved by the Lord (This is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.)

In verse 12 He will judge all who do not believe in Him, and now He is said to love all those who do believe in Him.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

13 **Because** (introduces why Paul gives thanks to God for them)
God has chosen you from the beginning for Salvation.

To What does *from the beginning* refer?

The Divine choice takes place in eternity past,
while the Divine call takes place in time,
therefore,

from the beginning
is the same as saying *from eternity*.

The relationship between God choosing believers and from the beginning is stated in:

Ephesians 1:4

4 **just as He** (GOD THE FATHER) **chose us in Him JESUS CHRIST before the foundation of the world** (from the beginning) **that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love.** (Sanctification)

Has chosen you Aorist Middle Indicative of a Greek verb: **to take for oneself, to choose, elect, prefer.**

God has chosen everyone who believes in the Messiah,
JESUS CHRIST, His Son,
this is a timeless Aorist Tense,
A Decision made in Eternity Past (before time)
in the doctrine of Divine Decrees.

1. God made a decision in Eternity Past to elect everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST, whoever they are! Yes, His Omniscience knows who will believe and who will not believe, but Omniscience does not mean predestined. This may be called a passage that presents Salvation from Eternity Past—Election to Eternity Future—Eternal Life Salvation.

2. The verb **has chosen** is **Middle Voice**, which emphasizes personal interest—learn about God: God chose you in His own interest for Himself. This study is so beautiful in what we learn about God and about JESUS CHRIST. We saw that one of the words for *Rapture* is that JESUS CHRIST gathers us up together to Himself; and now we see that God elects all who believe in His Son to Himself, for Himself. The verb is in the **Aorist tense** which refers to a definite action;
“Salvation rest on divine choice, not human effort”

3. God made the decree that everyone who believes is **saved** and everyone who does not believe is to **perish** in eternal separation from God.

4. The mechanics of Salvation.
There is so much involved in our salvation, and few people even begin to grasp the interaction of all these ‘doctrines’:

GOD: The Essence of God: perfect Righteousness; Love; Justice; Immutability; **GOD THE FATHER; GOD THE SON; GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT; JESUS CHRIST:** the God-man, Cross Work, Spiritual Death, Physical Death, Resurrection; Exaltation;

MANKIND: created by God and Sin; Freewill; Eternal Separation from God; Eternally with God; Propitiation, Sanctification; Election; Gospel; Truth;

SATAN: just to name a few.

Salvation is not as simple as most would like to think.

5. Experientially we are elected the moment we believe and are entered into union with Christ. Only when we are saved do we enter election.
6. Election does not mean that some are elected to go to heaven while some are elected to hell, that is: Election does not mean that God elects some to believe in JESUS CHRIST and some not to believe, this is the evil, blasphemous teaching of Calvinism which by the way is making a resurgence throughout churches in America.
7. JESUS CHRIST is the only One Elected and we share His Election by being in Union with Him.
8. The Gospel is the basis of Election and sanctification.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

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.**

Remember That Salvation Looks Both Ways:

(1)

WE ARE SAVED **FROM PERISHING**

(2)

BEING WITH GOD AND JESUS CHRIST FOREVER.

Sanctification means to be set apart unto the Lord... Forever!
This Eternal Sanctification is the Work of the Holy Spirit.

To be elected we must believe the Truth (13b).

The Truth refers to the Person and Work of JESUS CHRIST.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13) enters the believer
in union with JESUS CHRIST (Acts 1:5; John 14:20)

To be sanctified we must be Justified,

To be justified we must be Righteous before God,

**To be Righteous before God we must believe in
JESUS CHRIST... believe the Truth.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13

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.**

Note the Trinity is present in these words.

GOD THE FATHER chose them for salvation—

GOD THE SON loves them—

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT sanctified them—

Man's side, Our Part, is given in the last phrase:

and Faith in the Truth

And the last phrase gives explanation: faith in the truth

look back at verse 10 those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved...

But in contrast these believers in Thessalonica put their Faith in the Truth.

You can read the Bible and all through your reading you will see that what God looks for in man is not works but Simply Faith in His Beloved Son.

2 Thessalonians 2:14-17

14 **It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

What is meant by the introduction **it was for this**?

It was for this goal or purpose.

What purpose? Stated in verse 13:

God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth—(to accomplish this) **God called you** (we were chosen in Eternity Past and we were called in our lifetime.)

How does God call?

Through or by means of the gospel, presented by Paul and his team.

Through or by means of our gospel.

We have seen there are several crucial words that almost every pastor may use, but they do not all mean the same thing nor do they define these words as the Word of God defines them.

Words like ***Faith, Love, Righteousness, and Gospel.***

You have to know what they mean when they say **Gospel.**

Our gospel that is the Gospel that Paul and his team proclaimed. THE GOSPEL OF FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE FOR ETERNAL SALVATION.

Why this call of the Gospel?

That or in order that you may gain (The Greek noun means to gain, acquire or purchase)
the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

First this takes us to Ephesians 1:13-14

13 **In Him, (JC) you also, after listening to the Message of Truth, that is the Gospel of or resulting in your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him (JESUS CHRIST; sanctification) with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

14 **who (Holy Spirit) is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.**
This is equivalent to the redemption acquired for us by JESUS CHRIST;

1 Thessalonians 5:9 and

2 Thessalonians 2: 14

14 **It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

You want to learn more about JESUS CHRIST?

We just saw in verse 3 that we are Loved by Him, and now throughout the Lord's Prayer, it is His desire that we have His glory.

John 17:5

5 **"Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

John 17:22

22 **“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;**

John 17:24

24 **“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

**Challenge to believers during their life on earth.
The future is taken care of,
They Will Eternally Have The Glory Of Christ;**

**But what about the short time they have
between
Believing in JESUS CHRIST
and
going to be Face To Face With The Lord.**

2 Thessalonians 2:15

15 **So then,** (since you will enjoy the glory of JESUS CHRIST for all eternity) **brethren,** (believers we are all in the same family) **stand firm** (one of the few imperatives in 1 and 2 Thessalonians.)

Stand firm—do not move away from Truth you have been taught.

We have studied this command of our lives in Galations 5:1

- 1 **It was for freedom that Christ set us free;** (free from sin and free from the Law) **therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.** (To the Law or to sin.)

We are to stand firm in the freedom we have in Christ, while we run the race that is set before us.

We have already seen this word in our study of

1 Thessalonians 3:8

- 8 **for now** (after Salvation; after the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit) ***we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.***

It is amazing how many people... (Christians) think they are really living, really happy... without the Lord in Truth and in the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

- 15 **So then brethren stand firm** (in 1 Thessalonians, ***stand firm in the Lord*** but now we have a clear picture of how we are to stand firm:
And—even hold (another imperative—command for the Christian Way of Life;)

And this word means to ***take hold of, to grasp.***

First in your mind, then in your actions, and in your speech.

to the traditions (I do not like the translation: *traditions.*)

The Greek word means Teaching, Doctrine or Injunctions delivered or communicated from one person to another.

Even hold fast to the doctrines

What does it mean to hold fast to doctrines?

It means to be stabilized in every situation by thinking from Divine viewpoint instead of falling apart from human viewpoint.

You keep your mind thinking on the Word of God—keep a firm grip on doctrine from the Word of God.

which you were taught, Aorist Passive Indicative.

We each have to be taught the Word of God in Truth, this is why God the Holy Spirit gives to some males the gift of Pastor-Teacher. It is their responsibility to study and teach the Word of God and the Passive Voice emphasizes that we receive being taught when we sit and listen to one teaching the Truth.

whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

2 Thessalonians 2:16

16 **Now** (right now in their lives, while they live in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**) **may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself**

REMEMBER THAT
JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR LORD
GOD THE FATHER IS YOUR LORD
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR LORD.

*YOUR LORD GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
TAKES YOU TO YOUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
WHO TAKES YOU TO YOUR LORD, GOD THE FATHER)*

16 **and God our Father, who has loved us and given us** Aorist Participle of the verb to give!
Here we see the Love of God in action.

Love Sees A Need And Then Love Meets That Need.

Action of Aorist Participle precedes the action of the main verb:

So what has God already given:

well we could start with John 3:16

where God saw the world in need and in sin

and out of His love He met that need

by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Here in context GOD the Father sees the need and gives to us **eternal comfort and good hope**—and He gives these out from His Grace. You see the Grace of God does not stop with our Salvation but He continually gives to us in time and in eternity.

Eternal comfort is the comfort that we have while alive of our place after we die. This is Eternal comfort or Eternal Security.

and good hope Hope here does not refer to hope as we use in the English *...I hope it does not rain...* the Biblical word means confidence---good confidence about all that is going to happen in history and all that is going to happen after death!

eternal comfort and good hope by grace,
All we have is from the Love of God.

17 **comfort** This is in the optative mood, which expresses a wish or desire of Paul for these believers and this word thrust us right into the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word is our friend: ***parakaleo***

The word means to come to the side of someone so as to aid them, comfort them, encourage them, even guide them.

JESUS CHRIST uses this root to refer to the Holy Spirit. In the last night before the crucifixion JESUS CHRIST taught the 11 disciples a multitude about the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16

16 **“I will ask the Father,** after Resurrection and Ascension JESUS CHRIST will ask the Father **and He will give you another** like me;

deity **Helper,** this is the Greek word ***parakletos***

that He may be with you forever; Once you are Indwelt by the Holy Spirit you cannot lose the Holy Spirit, no matter how sinful you may be on earth.

Comfort and strengthen we have had this word in

1 Thessalonians 3:2 and 2:13;

Every believer needs to be Encouraged, Comforted and Strengthened in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** in which we all live.

Comfort and strengthen come from the Holy Spirit when we are Filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It is absolutely vital to know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit. Some teach it is by works of confession, but the Bible makes it clear that it is by Faith. By Grace through Faith – Faith in the Holy Spirit.

Comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word

Do you see it?

Works, things we do: giving, singing, helping One Another; etc.—
GOD LOOKS AT YOUR SOUL, NOT WHAT YOU DO.

**Whatever we do,
We should do it
AS UNTO THE LORD!**