

In the first half of chapter 2, Paul gave a description of the coming day of the Lord. His words were to be received as an encouragement to those who feared that the Day had already come and they were missed. In the second half of the chapter, Paul finishes his thought with a strengthening of what is true and an encouragement to stand firm in what they've learned.

2 Thessalonians

2:13-17

Stand

Firm

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Much of the Bible revolves around remembering. When we consider all the Lord has done, is doing, and His promises yet to come, the messages are all quite encouraging. When we experience confusion and worry, a Word of encouragement by way of God's promises have the power to change our heart's attitude significantly.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW would you describe the tension between fear and hope in your life?

WHAT role does a community of believers play in standing firm against spiritual deception?

HOW effective is encouragement, gratitude, and a heart of thankfulness in combating obstacles and uncertainties in your life?

2 Thessalonians

2:13-17

Stand

Firm

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

OBSERVATION

For what reason does Paul say (we) ought to give thanks for the Thessalonians (vs. 13)?

According to vs. 14, why did God call us to be saved?

In vs. 15, what encouragement does Paul give those at Thessalonica, specifically?

How did Paul communicate to the Thessalonians (vs. 15)?

List the things Paul mentions that we've received from God in vs. 16.

What does Paul pray for on behalf of those receiving this letter in the final two verses?

INTERPRETATION

As vs. 13 opens, it begins with the connecting word, *but*. What has just come in the previous section that necessitates this connecting word?

What does Paul mean when he refers to the Thessalonians as the "firstfruits" in vs. 13? Consider where the term is used in other places of scripture (Leviticus 23:10, 1 Corinthians 16:15, Romans 8:23)

What does sanctification mean? How do we obtain it, according to vs. 13?

In vs. 14, what is Paul speaking of when he mentions "obtaining the glory of the Lord"?

What are the traditions Paul references in vs. 15? Consider Mark 7:6-9 for insight.

Explain what Paul means when he calls his readers to "stand firm" in the faith? Consider how he says to do this in vs. 15 and how he speaks to the same notion in Galatians 5:1 and Philippians 4:1.

What seems to be the focus of Paul's prayer in vs. 16-17? Why do you think he prays for this specifically? Consider Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 5:8.

APPLICATION

What does it look like for you to *stand firm* in Christ, today?

As you consider the prayer Paul offers in vs. 16-17, who is someone you could pray the same for right now?