

Babies In Bad Times

2 Thes. 2:13 – 3:5

- “Everything goes wrong at once”
 - Sometimes true of congregation
 - Some wish for *good ole days...*
- They had every problem we do...

I. Paul Gave Thanks, 2:13

Mentions all three Persons of Godhead

- **Bound** – ongoing debt (of thanks)
- **Give thanks ‘always’ to God** –
 - Every day is Thanksgiving
 - Many complain ‘always’ (*Israel*)
- **Brethren** – children of same Father; bond
 - Paul knew it in spite of disobedience (2 Th.3), grief (2 Co.), envy (Phil.1)

“Brotherly love is still the distinguishing badge of every Christian” – Henry

- *Beloved by the Lord* (ESV; NASB)
 - Not only dear to Paul, but to God
 - Focus on Lord, not persecutors (Ac.7)
- *Chosen to salvation* –

<p>Past deliverance, 1 Th.5:9</p>	<p>Present process, 1 Tim.1:15</p>	<p>Future hope, 1 Th.5:8</p>
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- *From the beginning* – as Ph.4:15 [ASV; NASB]
- Variant: *firstfruits* – [ESV; Gk. NT]

Through sanctification by the Spirit

- **Set apart:** holiness, consecration, personal dedication to the interests of the deity
 - BDAG
 - How? Pursue holiness
- **Conditions on our part:** 1 Th.4:3-7 ('clean house'). 2 Tim.2:21
- **Truth:** Jn.17:14-17

Through sanctification by the Spirit

- *And belief in the truth –*
 - 2 Th.2:10-12, condemned for rejecting truth [= salvation is conditional]
 - Holy Spirit sanctifies
 - We believe truth (a condition we must meet). 1 Th.2:13
 - Love truth especially when it corrects us. 1 K.22:...16
 - Salvation commences with new birth, continues in maturity of character, culminates in heavenly glory

I. Why Paul Gave Thanks, 2:13

II. Called by the Gospel, 2:14

Honor to be called by a dignitary

The greatest call: 2 Th.1:11

Thanksgiving passes into exhortation

- **How?** Invited, Mt.22:3-14. 2 Pt.1:10
 - NOT by mystifying experience. GPTG
 - NOT by supernatural whisper
 - NOT through dream or whim
- **By (through) gospel, 2:14**
 - Divine grace does not exclude obedience. 1:8. 1 Pt.4:17

I. Why Paul Gave Thanks, 2:13

II. Why Paul Gave Thanks, 2:13

III. How Should We Live? 2:15

Stand fast [firm]

- Firmly committed in conviction or belief – BDAG
 - In midst of agitations, defections, false doctrines, be stand firm (pres. imperative)
 - ‘Stand’ is opposite of vacillating, quitting, getting distracted

‘If you don’t stand for something,
you will fall for anything’ – Marshall

Hold on [to traditions]

- Instructions handed down by apostles – BDAG
 - By word (oral) – Ac.17, preaching in Thessalonica
 - By our epistle (written) – 1-2 Thes.
 - Oral and written are equally effective
 - Ac.13:27

I. Why Paul Gave Thanks, 2:13

II. Called By The Gospel, 2:14

III. How Should We Live, 2:15

IV. Power for Living This Life 2:16-17

Power comes through...

- Prayer, 16a
 - May... Paul prays for them
- Love of Lord Jesus, of God – their love for us (cf. 13)
- Everlasting consolation, 16c – comfort that is inexhaustible
- Good hope, 16d – Tit.1:2
 - Good: it is real
 - Ruth 1:12

Power comes through...

- Comfort, 17a. Ps.23:4
- Establish, 17b – strengthen in every good . . .
 - **Word** (all you say). Lk.22:32
 - **Work** (all you do). Danger: Tit.1:16

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V. Power of Prayer, 3:1-2

Paul's request

- Brethren, pray for us (?) 1 Th.3:8
- That word of Lord may run swiftly... [speed ahead; spread rapidly] make rapid linear movement, run, rush, advance. Free course
- And be glorified (honored)
 - Glory belongs to God's word, not to us
 - Thessalonians are babies, but learning – eager to obey / share the gospel
 - What does not glorify God's word?
 - Sin, error, grumbling, pride, laziness...

Paul's request

- Brethren, pray for us
- That word of Lord may run swiftly And be glorified
- As it did also with you
 - Some seek only partial sanctification
[Paul writes from Corinth]
 - God speaks as He spoke to Gideon,
Jg.6:12

Paul's request

- Brethren, pray for us
- That word of Lord may run swiftly And be glorified
- As it did also with you
- That we will be delivered from...
 - Unreasonable – out of place. Lk.23:41
 - Wicked (evil, wrong, perverse) Ac.17:5 =
1 Th.2. [Ac.18:...5-11, 12-17]
- Not all have faith. 2:12

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VI. Lord Is Faithful, 3:3

Lord will . . .

- Establish you: support, confirm, strengthen (= 2:17; 1 Th.3:2)
- Guard you: protect by taking careful measures...against evil one (ultimately, against satan). Ja.4:7

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VII. We Have Confidence... 3:4

We have confidence in you ...

- You will do things we command
- We believe in you (as God with Gideon)

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VI. Lord Is Faithful, 3:3

VII. We Have Confidence... 3:4

VIII. Paul Prays For Brothers, 3:5

May...

- Lord direct your hearts
 - Many are directionally challenged – including some in Thessalonica
 - Divine effect of gospel: lead, direct; concentrate heart in thought, will, emotions
 - We must think right to live right
 - We think right by knowing His Word

May...

- Lord direct your hearts
- Into the love of God
 - Human response to gospel: love of God
 - Grow in understanding His love
 - in appreciation of it
 - in practice of it

May...

- Lord direct your hearts
- Into the love of God
- **Into the patience of Christ**
 - Steadfastness (ESV; NASB)
 - Endurance of Christ serves as our example
 - **Christlike fortitude**

If once saved, always saved,
we don't need this prayer