

What We Should Do to Love and Believe the Truth

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:1-5 / January 7, 2023

Background:

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to **love the truth** and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not **believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, ESV)

1. GIVE THANKS (2:13-14, ESV)

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord,

Why should we give thanks?

because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved,

How did God save us?

through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

Why did God save you?

To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Choice, Creation, and Calling of Adam and Eve

Chosen: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Created: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Called: And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28, ESV)

God's Choice, Creation, and Calling of the Church

Chosen: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Created: In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3-6, ESV)

Called: I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3, ESV)

2. STAND FIRM (2:15, ESV)

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

Why Should You Stand Firm?

1. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because
2. they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that
3. they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned
4. who did not believe the truth but
5. had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, ESV)

How Can You Stand Firm?

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,

1. having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and
2. having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and,
3. as **shoes** for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace**.
4. In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and
5. take the **helmet of salvation**, and
6. the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God,
7. **praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication. To that end,
8. **keep alert with all perseverance**, making supplication for all the saints, (Ephesians 6:13-18, ESV)

3. PRAY CONFIDENTLY (2:16-3:5, ESV)

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,

How should we pray for each other?

- (1) comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.
- (2) Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and
- (3) that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men.

Why should we pray?

- (1) For not all have faith.
- (2) But the Lord is faithful.
- (3) He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.
- (4) And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.
- (5) May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.