

E. God called me through the gospel message.

To this he called you through our gospel,... 2 Thessalonians 2:14 (ESV)

- God's call is effective. It is irresistible grace.

F. God PROMISES to bring me to glory.

To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:14 (ESV)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35, 38–39 (ESV)

4. Command — Hold on to the truth!

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. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (ESV)

...maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 1 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV)

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you... 1 Timothy 6:20 (ESV)

5. Closing — Pray for God's comfort when we feel insecure.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Read through the verses in section 1 about the Antichrist. What was new to you?
2. How does a better understanding of the way Satan and his Antichrist(s) work help you see Satan at work in the modern world?
3. Review the steps of salvation under point 3 in the outline. How does knowing our salvation began with an undeserved decision by God in eternity past to love us and bring us to glory change the way you think about being a Christian? How does it change the way you think about God after you fall into sin?
4. If our salvation is from God, what role does human responsibility play?
5. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13.** Why is it important to read our Bible to continually remind ourselves of truth in a world gripped by Satan's spin?
6. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:14 and Romans 8:35, 38-29.** How can knowing that nothing will change God's love and plan to bring me to glory change the way I feel about God?



2 Thessalonians 1:13-17 – Comfort For The Brokenhearted

October 20, 2024

1. Background On The Antichrist

...as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come... 1 John 2:18 (ESV)

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work... 2 Thessalonians 2:7 (ESV)

...the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed,... 2 Thessalonians 2:7–8 (ESV)

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.
2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 (ESV)

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24 (ESV)

You are of your father the devil,... does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 (ESV)

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness... 2 Corinthians 11:14–15 (ESV)

...many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. 2 John 7 (ESV)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

- **Jehovah's Witnesses** — Jesus is not God. He is the first created being of God.
- **Mormons** — Jesus is the child of God the Father and an earthly mother. He was created and did not always exist. Jesus and Satan are brothers.
- **Muslims** — Jesus is a prophet, like Mohammed.

No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 1 Corinthians 10:20 (ESV)

And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" Revelation 13:4 (ESV)

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,... Revelation 13:7 (ESV)

...and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. Revelation 13:8 (ESV)

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan... with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 (ESV)

It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth,... Revelation 13:13–14 (ESV)

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:29–30 (ESV)

...the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

...all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)

2. The Outline of 2 Thessalonians 2

A. Crisis v.1-2

B. Correction v.3-12

C. Comfort v. 13-14

D. Command v. 15

E. Closing v.16-17

3. Comfort — You will NOT miss Jesus' return!

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8 (ESV)

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (ESV)

A. My salvation ultimately depends on God, not on me.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you... 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

B. God loves me!

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord,... 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. 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,... Ephesians 1:4–6 (ESV)

C. God chose me.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved,... 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

...God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation... 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB 95)

...And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast,... Revelation 17:8 (ESV)

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Romans 8:33 (ESV)

You did not choose me, but I chose you... John 15:16 (ESV)

- This crushes pride.

- This gives joy.

- This brings security.

...I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

D. God transforms me.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

- God enables me to believe the truth.

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31 (ESV)

- God, through His Holy Spirit, transforms my character.