

Lessons From II Thessalonians

The Tradition

(II Th 2:13-17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From II Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “The Lawless One.”
 - i. **II Th 2:8** “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.”¹
 - b. This week we will be looking at “The Tradition.”
 - i. **II Th 2:15** “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.”
3. Paul starts this section off by...
 - a. Explaining that why he feels obligated to thank God for them.
 - i. Because God chose them to be saved.
 - ii. Because they were saved through the sanctification by the Spirit.
 - iii. Because they were saved through their faith in the truth.
4. Having explained our brethren there in Thessalonica’s spiritual situation he continues to point out to them that because of those thing just listed they ought to...
 - a. Stand firm in the tradition.
 - b. Hold to the tradition.
 - c. Be established in the tradition.
5. With this in mind let us examine our text for this day.

I. Stand Firm In The Tradition

- A. Paul expected our brethren to stand firm in the traditions
 1. **II Th 2:15** “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.”
- B. The Scriptures teach of bad & good traditions
 1. Manmade traditions are bad when they usurp God’s traditions.
 - i. **Mk 7:13** “thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down...”
 - ii. **Co 2:8** “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
 2. God’s traditions are to usurp all other traditions
 - i. **I Co 11:2** “Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.”
- C. Thus...
 1. We better stand firm in the traditions of God rather than the traditions of man.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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II. Hold To The Tradition

- A. Paul expected our brethren to hold to the traditions
 - 1. **II Th 2:15** “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.”
- B. The Scriptures teach of holding to the wrong and right traditions.
 - 1. Man is not to hold so tight to his traditions so as to forgo God’s traditions
 - i. **Mk 7:8** “You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”
 - 2. Man is to hold so close to God’s traditions that they are to keep away from any that do not.
 - i. **II Th 3:6** “Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.”
- C. Thus...
 - 1. As man created in God’s image we are to hold tightly to the precious traditions of God.

III. Be Established In The Tradition

- A. Paul explains how these traditions were to be established
 - 1. **II Th 2:17** “comfort your hearts and establish them [traditions] in every good work and word.” (brackets mine)
- B. God’s traditions are establish in good works because...
 - 1. Good works will require our maturing spiritually.
 - i.
- C. God’s traditions are established in word because...
 - 1. Truth spoken will require maturing our knowledge with God’s Word.
 - i.

CONCLUSION

- 1. The term “tradition” gets a bad rap but for those that know the truth and to those that hold to it tradition isn’t something to run from but embrace as long as it is the “the tradition” and not man’s tradition.
 - a. Let us hold to “the tradition” of God.
- 2. Question: Are you holding strong to the tradition?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.

Lessons From II Thessalonians

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| i. Hear/Study | Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15 |
| ii. Have Faith In Jesus | Jn 3:16; 8:24 |
| iii. Repent/Turn To God | Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47 |
| iv. Confess Jesus As Lord | Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9 |
| v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins | Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21 |
| vi. Live A Faithful Life | I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8 |