

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Hope
2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5

Last time...Paul reminded the church at Thessalonica of things he had previously taught them about the Day of the Lord

- a coming apostasy, a falling away from the faith...something that happens in the worldly church
- the removal of the Restrainer of evil...something that happens to the faithful Church that is restraining evil in the world; she must be removed before the Antichrist is revealed
- the revelation of the counterfeit christ...something that happens in the world
- a strong delusion...something that happens to the inhabitants of the world that believe the lie that the counterfeit christ is God, as he will proclaim

This time...Paul, having made a clear delineation between their current tribulations/suffering and the Day of the Lord, encourages and comforts the beloved brethren with words of hope

We will finish 2 Thes 2 and begin 2 Thes 3

2 Thes 2

v13-14 But...because God...chosen...called:

But...a pivot away from the false hope and false peace and false safety of the world (v10-12) to the hope, peace, safety, and love of the Lord our Savior

Paul gives thanks to God for them, who are beloved by the Lord, because
1 Thes 5:9

appointed = “placed”, “ordained”, “purposed”, “settled”

With the word “chosen”, we need to understand who chooses and when, and how those choices are connected

1. God chooses...from before the foundation of the world i.e. before time (one dimension of the created universe is time)

- those unto wrath
- those unto salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ

God is sovereign, the Supreme Authority that rules in the kingdom of men

2. Individual people choose...in time, a dimension of the world in which they are “trapped”/confined

- Life or death...the choice God puts before them
God would not put forth the choice if He makes the choice
- to believe the Truth, what God has said and done
(1 Cor 15:3-4)
- to not believe the Truth, what God has said and done
- to deny Self and say “Not my will be done, but Yours”
(sanctification of the Spirit)
- to indulge Self and say, “My will be done, not Yours.”

Created in the image of God, Man is given sovereignty,

- the free will to choose
- the responsibility that goes with it

3. By His foreknowledge of all things in eternity and in time, foreknown from before the foundation of the world, God chooses

- those appointed to wrath
- those appointed to salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ

Salvation from the wrath of God and the wages of sin comes not by the works of man but by the work of Jesus Christ, it is the gift of God for whosoever will believe... it is the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ
(John 3:16, Eph 2:8-9)

Case in point: the church at Thessalonica

1 Thes 1:9

God’s desire is that all will be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth
(1 Tim 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9)

The Son of God was taken to the Cross as His sin sacrifice by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God
(Acts 2:23)

Those that love (believe, obey) Him are foreknown and predestined to be conformed into the image of His Son
(Rom 8:28-29)

Those that love God are the elect, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, thru the sanctification of the Spirit into obedience by the acceptable sacrifice of Jesus Christ
(1 Peter 1:2)

But...narrow is the path that leads to Life and few (chose to seek and) find it, and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many go (chose to go) there
(Matt 7:7, 13-14)

4. God chooses AND people choose...
NOT God chooses and people have no choice,
which a very popular theology in the Church today, and it is error

Be not deceived, let no man deceive you, Family
Acts 17:11

v15 Therefore...stand fast and hold:

Therefore, since v13-14 is true

- stand fast...on the Truth of God's Word and against deception, not soon shaken in mind or troubled
- hold ("white knuckle") the traditions... "deliverances", "teachings"
 - by word...spoken (v5)
 - our epistle...written words of God (2 Tim 3:16, 1 Thes and 2 Thes)

v16-17 everlasting consolation and good hope...comfort:

Oh, in those times and in these times, how precious are the gifts of the Giver of every good and perfect gift:

- love...perfect, unconditional
Rom 5:8
1 John 4:8-10
- everlasting consolation...encouraging exhortation without end
- good hope...confidence in God and expectation of His faithfulness
- grace...something we do not deserve (forgiveness) instead of what we do deserve (justice, condemnation)
Rom 5:20
- comfort...from the God of all comfort
Is 49:15-16a Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands.

Hag 1:13 “I am with you!” after chastisement and conviction
1 John 4:4
1 Thes 4:18
1 Thes 5:11

- established...fixed on an unmovable Rock, “in Christ”
John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world
1 John 5:4-5 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

When we need true love, peace, safety, grace, encouragement, comfort, and hope,
they can be found only in the Lord Jesus Christ and in God our Father
You will not find them in a bottle, a pill, or in any person
Don't be “lookin’ in all the wrong places” for the very best gifts

2 Thes 3

v1-2 pray for us, that:

Furthermore, family, as you grow and blossom in a right relationship with God,
pray for us...that

1. the Word of the Lord may have free course...free reign, free run...
(in us)
 - allowed to go anywhere within us, unrestrained and unconfined
no sections of our purchased being cordoned off where
Jesus is not Lord
 - allowed to take us anywhere He, in His perfect will, so chooses
places in “the rich pageantry of life”, circumstances
 - allowed to do anything with us our loving Father so chooses
for His glory and our eternal good
 - Matt 22:36-40 and Matt 26:39 unto Matt 25:21
2. the Word of the Lord may be glorified, in us as it is in you
 - in our lives and thru our lives so those in darkness will know
that the Living God is Lord Who so loves us

Do we pray for the Word of God have free reign and free run in our lives?!

Do we pray “Whatever”...that our lives be unconditionally surrendered to Jesus Christ and governed by the Word of God?

Do we pray 1 Thes 5:18, not knowing what God is doing?

Do we pray that the Word of God would transform the hornets in our mouth into psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that minister grace to the hearers?

3. we may be delivered from

- unreasonable people...not in their right mind, not at the feet of Jesus, refusing to Is 1:18
- wicked people...evil, degenerate
- not all people have faith...are not faithful to Jesus Christ, many have chosen to not believe what God has said and done and chosen to walk on the broad way that leads to destruction, at whose hands the righteous suffer

v3-5 But the Lord is faithful...we have confidence:

Whereas most people are not faithful, the Lord is faithful – always!

Not one word of God fails

Joshua 24:15

1 Kings 8:56

1 Thes 5:23-24

God will

- establish you...strengthen, turn you resolutely unto Him (by faith)
Is 7:9b If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.
- keep you from evil...He is our Rock, fortress, shield, high tower, refuge, deliverer, savior (2 Sam 22:1-7)

And, therefore, we have confidence in, we are fully persuaded that, the Lord

Who is faithful and cannot lie or fail

(have no confidence in the flesh that is corrupt to the core and flawed)

- that you do (now) and will do (in the future) the things we have commanded...transmitted to you by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 1:24, Matt 20:25-28, 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- that the Lord direct/guide your hearts into
 - the love of God
 - Rom 5:1-11
 - Rom 8:35-39
 - 1 John 3:1-3, 16

- 1 John 4:9-12
 - 1 John 5:3
 - Jude 21
 - the patient waiting for Christ
 - cheerful endurance during the suffering that precedes the glory (Rom 8:18)
 - the return of the Bridegroom for His Bride
 - 1 Thes 1:10
 - Lam 3:24-26 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him. *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD
 - Is 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.
- Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Application/Lessons

A message of faith and hope

The Lord is faithful...we are saved by grace thru faith, the faith of Christ

Our hope is in the Lord

Our faith, the measure given to us that we have chosen to invest in Jesus Christ (Rom 10:17), needs an anchor if we are to enter into God's rest in the turbulent storms of life on earth

Heb 6:18-19 That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.

Rom 4:16 – 5:5

Rom 8:24-25

Rom 15:13

Col 1:27b Christ in you, the hope of glory

Titus 2:11-14

In a world gone mad where deception and confusion reign, where evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived and preparing the world for a counterfeit savior...

being proposed and lobbied for is a QR code based system to

- track those not vaccinated with the COVID-19 “vaccine”
- ward off forged COVID-19 vaccine cards

In a world FILLED with pain and suffering and discouragement...

In a nation that seems to be dying right in front of our eyes...because it has murdered 60M+ babies

whether Blue Gang or Red Gang in in the White House

no turning back, no repentance

no Revival due to politics

embraces and celebrates behavior God calls disgusting

where

- The words of God are considered “hate speech”
- Liberal humanists use their political and social power to punish people dedicated to their faith

Biden Admin’s HHS filed in federal court to force faith-based hospitals to perform transgender surgeries and provide abortion services regardless of their religious beliefs

- Legislation proposed in the State CA Legislature called the California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform Act (CLEAR Act) aims to quash the "infiltration of extremists in our law enforcement agencies" and would require a background check for police officers who have "exchanged racist and homophobic messages.” Pacific Justice Institute says the definition of “hate speech” was broad and purposefully arbitrary, paving the way for some to classify Christians and conservatives as propagators of "hate speech," especially on topics such as abortion and same-sex marriage.
- Many states are considering legislation that makes illegal the refusal to get the COVID-19 “vaccine” for a 99.5% survivable virus based on religious grounds; “My body, my choice” is fine for unbelievers but not for believers
- Transgender youths are hailed as heroes and police officers are branded as criminals

- The most powerful man in the world says to a group of journalists, “I’m really going to be in big trouble if I keep answering questions.”
Who is more powerful than POTUS?
Those holding his strings.
Who are they?
Where are they? In DC? In NY? In Beijing?
- There appears to be no braking in the downward spiral into madness and self-destructive implosion

But...we followers of Jesus Christ (identified by God as strangers and pilgrims on this earth) have hope

What is our hope?

Resurrection unto eternal life in a flawless, sin-free body in the pure and joyful presence of the holy God

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens

2 Cor 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit

Victory over death

1 Cor 15:26

The hope of the return of Jesus Christ enables us to look beyond the current circumstances to the glory that awaits (Rom 8:18)...just as Jesus looked beyond the suffering, humiliation, and agony of the Cross (Heb 12:1-4)

In a world without hope, our message is of hope!

There are many voices in the world

Do not listen to the voices, listen to the Spirit of God

Be a “speaker” of the Voice of God to a world without hope