

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

2nd Thessalonians

Feb 2017

Model for Living: *Standing Firm*

INTRODUCTION

How has God changed (sanctified) you since you became a Christian?

EXPLORATION

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

1. For what reasons did Paul encourage people to thank God? vs. 13
2. How did Paul describe God's role in our salvation? **Eph 1:4-5, Rom 9:14-16; 1 Ths 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9**
3. How does God work in our lives even before we put our trust in Him? **Psalm 139:15**
4. What forces work for our salvation? **Rom 2:8, Act 2:38-39**
5. How does God use other people to bring us to Him? **Isa 43:12;**
6. Why did God save us? vs 14 **Rom 8:29, Phil 2:12-13; 1 Ths 5:24**
7. What are the stages of the Thessalonians' salvation experience described in verses 13 & 14?
8. What does it mean to stand firm as a Christian? vs 15 **Phil 1:27**
9. What does God do to strengthen us? John 17:17; **Rom 8:34**
10. What weakens a person's relationship with God?
11. What traditions (vs 15) do you think Paul introduced? **Col 2:8 1 Cor 11:2** How might they help?
12. What media did Paul use to send instruction to the church at Thessalonica? v. 15
13. What impact did Paul want God to have on every believer in the church? Vv 16, 17
14. How does God encourage us? vs 17
15. Paul wants us to "be" but he also wants us to "do". What is that? vs 17 **Eph 2:10**

APPLICATION

- When can you make time in your schedule this week to encourage another believer?
- What can you do to benefit Christ this week?

God works in this world through the truth of His Word, and Satan opposed this truth by substituting his lies. Human nature is prone to believe a lie and resist the truth. Satan accomplishes his best work through people who call themselves Christian but do not believe God's truth. They have "a form of godliness" but have never experienced the power of God's saving truth. Paul was concerned about two aspects of the Thessalonians' Christian life: their word and their work, their saying and their doing. If our walk contradicts our words, we lose our testimony.

Pastor Ed Wood, FBC Sunflower, MS

The doctrine of God's sovereign, elective love has several practical benefits. It crushes human pride (Titus 3:5), since God gets all the credit for salvation. It exalts God (Ps. 115:1), as He receives praise for His love. It produces joy (1 Peter 1:1-2, 6, 8), as believers rejoice in their salvation. It grants unimaginable privileges (Eph. 1:3). It promotes holiness in the lives of the elect (Col. 3:12-13). Finally, and most relevant to Paul's purpose in this passage, it provides security (Phil. 1:6).¹

¹ MacArthur, J. (2002). *1 & 2 Thessalonians* (287). Chicago: Moody Press.