



# *2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica*

## *2 Thess 2:13-14 – Give Thanks to God for You*

- *2 Thessalonians 2:13,14 - But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - This is in strong contrast to the future of the perishing just described in vs. 10-12.
    - And notice, the trinity is proclaimed in these 2 verses!
    - Why the sudden transition in theme?
      - Doesn't this reflect the character of God?
        - » *Isaiah 40:13,14 - Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?*
  - Keathley III – ‘Consequently, having assured these believers that they were not then in the Day of the Lord and having contrasted their glorious future with that of the unbelieving world, the apostle returns to matters at



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hand in verses 14-17, namely the present danger of failing to hold to what they had been taught so that they might find their comfort and strength in that truth for fruitful living in this present world. **In this we see the necessary balance between prophecy and practical Christian living.**

- Who is *giving thanks to God* always for whom?
  - Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy – *1 Thess 1:1*
    - This is a recurring theme - *1 Thess 1:2, 2:13; 3:9; 2 Thess 1:3*
  - The *brethren beloved (agapao) by the Lord*
    - This is a perfect passive participle!
      - » *Rom 8:39 - nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
    - An this is selective - the term *beloved* is intended to lift them up and encourage them.
      - » *Col 3:12 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*
- *because God from the beginning chose you for salvation*
  - *chose* – this is aorist and factual; so, what do we make of this?
    - » *Eph 1:4, - just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*



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McCalley – ‘What is the meaning of the phrase from the beginning? Some interpreters take it to refer to the day Paul first preached the gospel to them. This misses an important distinction present in these verses. **The divine choice takes place in eternity**; the divine call takes place in time. The words from the beginning are equivalent to from eternity.’

- Back to Calvinism and Armenianism?
  - » *John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
  - » *1 Tim 2:3,4 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
- *through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth*
  - Aren’t these the conditions and process by which we were saved?
    - *Sanctification before belief in the truth* - is the order reversed here?
      - » *1 Cor 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*
- *to which He called (invited) you by our gospel*
  - *our gospel* – by and through the person and work of Jesus Christ!
- *for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - What begins with grace always leads to *glory!*



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- Let's ponder this statement for a minute.
  - Is not our existence as believers to manifest God's glory?
    - » *John 17:22 - "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as we are one:*
    - » *1 Cor 10:31 - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.***
    - » *2 Cor 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***
    - » *2Cor 4:17 - For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a **far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,***
    - » *Phil 4:19 - And my **God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

- ***In Summary:***

- Paul, Sylvanus and Timothy have redirected the letter to the Thessalonians to reflect God's sovereignty, calling and encouragement; and this reveals the critical and essential roles of the other two members of the trinity – the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.