

May 3, 2026
II Thessalonians 2:13-17
“So Then, Stand Firm”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This pericope serves as a transition from teaching on the day of the Lord to exhortations for present day living in view of this coming day of the Lord.

V 14, all people are called to salvation by the gospel. There is only one way to heaven.

“Christians are in constant danger of being swept downstream by the currents of ungodly culture. They are also prone to let the truths they know and the relationship they enjoy with God grow cold. They need to vigorously hold to what they have been taught by God’s servants. . . ., They were in danger of slipping backward in their Christian experience because of the pressures of their trials and the daily negative influences of the world, the flesh, and the devil.” *Thomas L. Constable* This is a good strong warning to believers not to get caught up in the sway of the devil.

The Thessalonians were in need of prayer for steadfastness so Paul prays for them to have encouragement and strength. Paul commanded the church to remain unmovable and cling tenaciously by these doctrines. Stand firm and hold fast to the teachings.

God’s love and grace is the foundation for eternal encouragement. God is the One who gives hope for the future. Those who build on fleeting foundations have no genuine hope. There is an tremendous difference between temporal and eternal hope.

The traditions of men are useless and harmful when put in the place of the Word. Half baked theories were floating around causing confusion and this statement is a rebuttal against this heresy. **Verse 15** speaks of the only traditions worth holding on to

Application:

God has both the power and inclination to help His children. God is our Father who loved and gave us life eternal through the Son. God’s children can pray to Him with confidence. God, strengthen this church and establish it. When persecuted and attacked by false messages and messengers keep this church on the right path. In the midst of a crooked and perverse world may this church persist in every good deed and word. A church certain of the future in Christ, at peace within the fellowship, established in sound doctrinal belief and behavior will stand firm in the face of erroneous teaching and opposition. Genuine salvation brings comfort to God’s people.

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The doctrine of salvation, a very limited overview.

Meditate on: **Romans 3:23; 6:23, 10:8-13; John 3:1-18, I John 5:1-21.**

Bible references: when God calls, His calling is irrevocable, see **Romans 11:29**, “since God’s gifts and calling are irrevocable.” The primary interpretation of this verse is in relation to God’s dealing with Israel. God is the Author of salvation.

The people of Thessalonica needed assurance that God’s plan and purpose for a person’s life remains in place, even if they have taken a detour. Be assured, the purposes of God are not disqualified by mistakes or shortcomings. **Romans 8:33**, “Who can bring an accusation against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies.”

Be super careful not to make little of God’s grace. **Galatians 2:21**, “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.” **Ephesians 2:8-9**, “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is God’s gift-not from works, so that no one can boast.”

Soteriology is the work of salvation, here is a quick look at how that works. **John 6:37**, “Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out.” **John 6:44**, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Believer’s security from a biblical perspective is well expressed in the book of Ephesians. **Ephesians 1:13**, “In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed.” Diving deeper, **Ephesians 4:30**, “And do not grieve God’s Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption.”

Application:

A good reminder for the Thessalonians and for us today was penned by Paul in **Romans 8 35-39**, “Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: **Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”