

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE  
WAYNE BARRETT  
HILLTOP LAKES CHAPEL  
JUNE 17, 2020

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5**  
**An Extended Benediction**

<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

<sup>3</sup> Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, <sup>2</sup> and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. <sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. <sup>4</sup> And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

—2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5(ESV)

v 13 – because God chose you

A person cannot “choose” to be saved by Christ—he must be responding to an invitation of Christ. We ask to be chosen.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. —  
John 15:16

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, . . . <sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. <sup>12</sup> And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”—Matthew 22

As the firstfruits

Firstfruits does not mean “some of the very first Christians”; all Christians are “firstfruits.”

Under the law, firstfruits—both of crops, livestock, and even children—belonged to the Lord and either had to be sacrificed to God or have a sacrifice made on their behalf. The risen Christ is the firstfruits of God’s new creation (1 Corinthians 15:20), holy unto the Lord, as are all those who are in Christ

through sanctification by the Spirit

This is for all Christians—being made holy by the Spirit’s work  
and

belief in the truth

We are formed into the image of Christ, in part, by faith—full belief—in his  
God's word

v 14 – To this he called you...  
God calls, and God chooses

“through our gospel” – the principal way that God saves—through the preaching of the  
gospel

so that you may obtain the glory...  
We are fellow heirs with Christ  
Only Jesus is Lord, but those who belong to Him share in his inheritance and are blessed  
forever as citizens in His kingdom

v 15 – so then...  
an encouragement  
“our” spoken word or letter

v 16 – Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself  
We do not serve a philosophy or a religious system, we serve a person—and we are  
known by him

“who loved us and gave us...”  
It is always about God's love for us and His provision for us—we are recipients!

“eternal comfort”  
*paraklésis* – given by the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete  
One right alongside us

“good hope”  
A certain expectation – and it is good!

“through grace”  
As a gift

v 17 — The request:  
comfort (strengthen, encourage, *paraklésis*) your hearts  
and establish them  
“heart” matters  
We must not “lost heart,” quit trying, give up  
In every good work and word – like Jesus!

3:1 – Finally, brothers, pray for us...  
That God's word may go forward  
Prayer is essential

God's work is opposed as are his workers  
“wicked and evil men” (v 2) –there is such a thing!

“for not all are of the faith” – even where one might expect them to be

“He will...guard you against the evil one”

There is a devil, and he is behind the opposition to God

“the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ”

This should characterize our hearts—our living

Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians—and our prayer as well for ourselves.