

STANDING FIRM

Part Ten: *hold on*

November 5, 2023

Unfortunately, a lot of Christians live like unbelievers. Some love the world more than God (1 John 2:15-17). Some allow Satan or their sinful nature to entangle them in sin (Gal. 5:16-25; Heb. 12:1-4). And some are spiritually delinquent. They are not actively involved in a local church or using their spiritual gifts in ministry (Heb. 10:23-25; Romans 12: 4-8). *Why do some Christians not live for Christ?* They have forgotten what God has done for them and what He wants to do in their life.

After he explained to them what is not true in 2:1-12...

In Vs. 13a, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that God loves them.

Why did Paul feel he needed to remind the Thessalonians that God loves them?

- Because we question God's love when life is difficult.

The first truth we question when life is difficult is, "Does God love me?" The best way to answer that important question is with the Bible.

The Bible says...

- God created you!
- God sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins!
- God has given you many wonderful gifts!

God gave you His Spirit (Rom. 8:9; 1 Co. 6:19-20), adopted you into His family (John 3:3; Rom. 8:15), and gave you spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8) and eternal life (John 3:16) when you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. God has also given you the right to come to His throne of grace at any time and ask Him for anything and gain His peace (Matt. 7:7-11; Phil. 4:6-8).

In Vs. 13b, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that God chose them for salvation and holiness.

When did God choose the Thessalonians for salvation?

- God chose them for salvation before He created the world (Ephesians 1:4).

God knew humanity would sin against Him, and He determined that He would send His Son to die for us sinners. God predestinated before the foundation of the world that whosoever calls upon the Lord Jesus for salvation will be saved (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-13).

The Bible is clear that God loves all people (John 3:16), sent His Son Jesus to die for all people (1 John 2:2), and wants all people to be saved (1 Tim. 2:1-6; 2 Peter 3:9). Because God wants all people to be saved, He is drawing all people to Christ (John 6:44; 12:32) through His Spirit, Word, and children (John 16:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:20).

Why does God want to save us from the penalty and power of our sins?

- He wants to make us holy so we can fellowship with Him and do His will (1 Thess. 4:3-4).

In Vs. 14, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that they share in Jesus' glory.

What does it mean to share in the glory of Christ?

- It means to share in the honor bestowed on Jesus (Romans 8:15-30).

In Vs. 15, Paul tells the Thessalonians to stand firm and keep a strong grip on what they have been taught.

“Stand firm” is a Greek military phrase that means not to retreat when the enemy attacks. “Keep a strong grip” is another military term that means “seize and keep control of.”

Takeaways...

1. We need to remind ourselves each day that God loves us, has chosen us for salvation and holiness, and we share in Christ's glory.
2. We need to stand firm when attacked by the Devil.
3. We need to keep holding onto the truths in the Word of God.