

## *We Are Bound to Give Thanks to God Always for You: 2 Thes 2:13–17*

Dr. John Niemelä Grace Chapel [www.mol316.com](http://www.mol316.com) April 15, 2009

### INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

Paul, Sylvanus & Timothy extend the Thessalonians grace & peace from the Father & Christ (1:1–2)

Paul finds himself appropriately compelled to thank God for the Thessalonians because their faith is growing and their mutual love for one another is spreading, resulting in Paul boasting of them among the churches regarding their patience & faith in persecutions & trials (which evidence God's righteous judgment); Paul prays that God would count them worthy of His (millennial) kingdom, for which they suffer; the reason that their patience in trials evidences God's righteous judgment is because it is right for God to afflict those who trouble the Thessalonians (by righteously judging those who neither know God nor obey Christ's good-news message w/ everlasting destruction away from the Lord's presence & away from the glory of His power) & to give the troubled Thessalonian believers rest (along with Paul [& other believers]) when Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels (second advent), when He comes in His second Advent to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all who believe (including the Thessalonians: who believed Paul's testimony of Christ) (1:3–10)

In light of the Thessalonians patience & faith in persecution & trials] Paul prays that God would count them worthy of His calling [e.g., rewardable] & would accomplish His purpose w/ regard to goodness [in their lives] and them using the content that they believe so that Christ may be glorified in them (& they may partake of that glory) according to the grace of the Father & the Son (1:11–12)

They should not be troubled by false revelation that the day of Christ had come, because neither (1) *the apostasy* nor (2) *the revelation of the man of sin* (who opposes God and exults himself above anything called God) occurred; they know about the restrainer (who assures that the man of sin will not be revealed until the proper time, although a mystery form of lawlessness already is in the world, but the restrainer will continue restraining until He stops restraining; Halfway through the trib will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> revelation of the man of sin (the lawless one), whom the Lord will destroy with a word at the brightness of His *parousia*; the Lawless one's presence (*parousia*) will show satanic power, signs & false wonders, deceiving those who are perishing (who hate the truth that would deliver them); god (thru Satan) will send strong delusion (in the form of satanic persuasion) so unbel (who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in what was false) may believe the lie & be judged (2:1–12)

### NEW EXPOSITION

**(2:13) Paul thanks God for them because God already chose them for deliverance (at the rapture) because the Holy Spirit sanctified these who believed the truth**

Paul is bound to give thanks (cf. 1:3)

When is the beginning point (when they were chosen)?

Is it eternity past?      Is it when they believed?

They were chosen through sanctification and belief

The choosing to which Paul refers (here) is in time. (Eph 1:4 talks about a choosing before the world was founded (created). These are 2 different choosings.

To which salvation does Paul refer here?

The Spirit *sanctified* (*hagiazō*) them, so each of them is a *saint* (*hagios*)

**(2:14) God called them to this salvation by Paul's gospel, so they would obtain glory from the Lord Jesus Christ**

**(2:15) [In light of God calling them to this salvation so they would be glorified] they are to stand firm in that communicated by Paul by letter or by Paul personally**

**(2:16–17) [To the end that they stand firm in truth] Paul prays that God (who—by grace—loved us and gave us everlasting comfort and good hope) establish them in every good word and work**

**CONCLUSION**