

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. (2 Thess. 2:15)

I. Thank God You Were Chosen (vv.13-14)

- a. *God chose you as the first fruits* (v.13). Divine selection always brings up questions among Christians concerning why God chooses this person and not that person.
- b. *You did not choose me, but I chose you.* (John 15:16) What does this mean?
 1. God sees and knows everything from its beginning to its end.
 2. Although God has given us free will, He knows, guides, and positions us to choose Him. Some do choose Him, and some do not.
 3. In the eternity of the past God chose us to be saved. Then He called us in time, causing us to hear the Gospel, believe the truth and be sanctified by the Spirit, with a view to our sharing Christ's glory in the eternity of the future.
- c. Pray that others will be chosen and that you will be used to point others to Jesus Christ.

II. Desire the Stable Life (vv.15-17)

Stability is a desired quality in every sphere of human life. Builders work to construct stable homes and we admire people who have a stable personality, character, and convictions.

- a. *So then, brothers, stand firm* (v. 15). Jesus calls us not to be *like reeds shaken by the wind* (Matt 11:7) but be rock-like and immovable.
- b. The N.T. identifies the winds which threaten our stability, and against which we are to take our stand. (Eph 4:14)
- c. The devil is currently responsible for mounting three-dimensional attacks against believers. These three attacks will come to a terrible climax when Antichrist is revealed.
 1. **1)** persecution (physical); **2)** false teaching (intellectual); and **3)** temptation to sin (moral).
- d. The Antichrist will usher in anarchy. Hell will break loose. And many will be swept away by the wind of error and evil. This is the background to the third section of 2 Thessalonians chapter 2.
- e. Temptations are like strong gusts of wind which threaten to blow us over. Paul prayed that God would *establish* the Thessalonians, so that they would be holy in God's presence. (1 Thess. 3:13)
- f. In any strong wind we will reach to hold on to something stable. This text encourages us to hold on to the only thing that is eternal, The Word of God. (Matthew 24:35)
- g. The *traditions* are those which the apostles received from Christ, *the Christian way of life*.
- h. The *spoken word or letter* are now preserved in the N.T. Cling to true teaching and be stable.
- i. Paul appealed for stability to the church Thessalonians – *so then brothers* (15). This suggest that we to stand firm in Christian fellowship as we stand in the Word.
- j. As we receive teaching from pastors, who are authorized to teach God's Word, we wrestle together with application, and we teach and admonish each other out of the same Scriptures.

III. Practical Lessons

- a. Lesson #1 – Whenever you feel separated and lonely celebrate the fact that the Lord personally chose you to be in His family. Everyone is special in God's family!
- b. Lesson #2 – Personal Bible study is essential, however, if we are left to ourselves, it is easy for us to misinterpret the Word of God and even manipulate it to suit our prejudices.
- c. Lesson #3 – We need the checks and balances of the Christian family or we could be taken away by every wind of doctrine.