

Series: 2 Thess

Title: Salvation all of God

Text: 2 Thess 2: 13-17

Date: Aug 11, 2024

Place: SGBC, NJ

Last time, Paul declared that before Christ returns, God will send sinners strong delusion to believe a lie: *because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved*. This time, we see the contrast of God's grace.

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: BUT we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Proposition: We are bound to thank God because salvation is of the Lord: of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Divisions: 1) Salvation is by God the Father's electing grace—**13...because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation** 2) Salvation is by the Holy Spirit's sanctifying grace—**13...through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel,** 3) Salvation is by God the Son, our Lord Jesus--**14:...to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Christ is Preeminent in all three: Christ is God's Elect, Christ is Sanctification and Christ is Righteousness. It is the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ that he gives us. So we will see Christ in each of these blessings.

GOD THE FATHER

God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.

Election is of God--"*God hath...*" God is sovereign. He chose whom he would and passed by whom he would.

Exodus 33:19: And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Romans 9:18: Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth.

What is the purpose of God's election of grace?

Romans 9: 11: For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth.

God's purpose is so that his people will know salvation is not of works but God that calleth.

Romans 9: 16: So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

That is why Romans 9 is hated so much by will-worshippers. But before God the Father chose his people he chose his Son to be the Christ.

Isaiah 42: 1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth;...[Christ is our Salvation because God said]...4: He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law [his gospel]--8 *I am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images....12 Let them give glory

unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands...21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.

Christ is God's preeminent elect

Colossians 1: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

What a blessing! We thank God because were it not for election, we would not be saved. All blessings were given his elect in Christ before time.

Ephesians 1:3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

"Christ be My First Elect, He said,
Then chose our souls in Christ our Head,
Before He gave the mountains birth,
Or laid foundations for the earth."

Brother Larry Brown was called home by our Lord Friday. He heard Christ say, "*Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Mt 24: 34)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: BUT we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel...

Sanctification is holiness. To be separated and made holy. In the new birth, the Holy Spirit makes Christ Sanctification unto us.

We saw God the Father sanctified us--separated us into Christ--when he chose his people before time. God's elect were holy and without blame before him in Christ before the world was made. God the Father chose us in Christ,

Ephesians 1: 4...that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Then Christ came and sanctified us by his work on the cross.

Hebrews 10: 7: Then said [Christ], Lo, I come...to do thy will, O God...10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*... 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 13: 12: Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Hebrews 2:11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Then the Holy Spirit regenerates us and creates a holy new man within us, making Christ sanctification unto us.

Ephesians 1: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Galatians 4:6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

By Christ being in you in Spirit there is a new holy spirit, a new holy man, created within you in his image, in his righteousness, in his holiness.

Romans 8: 10: And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Ephesians 4:24: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness

This makes us live as holy, sanctified, saints. We thank God always. We give him all the glory in all things. We walk as holy children--not to make ourselves holy--but because we are holy. When will-worshippers preach sanctification by man's works, we cannot follow the voice of a stranger.

I used to say the apostle Paul was a master at using a play on words. But it is not Paul it is God who gave Paul the words. Soon we will see in Isaiah 47, God calls the great harlot Babylon--will-worshippers--"O virgin daughter Babylon"--not because they are but because will-worshippers claim they are holy virgins by their works. God gave Paul the same play on words in 2 Corinthians 6. Some at Corinth gloried that they sanctified themselves by the works of the law. They claimed they had separated themselves but by glorying in their works they had not come out. So God said then if you are really sanctified,

2 Corinthians 6: 17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you, 18: And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Notice, this sanctification of the Spirit is not through the law but through the gospel of Christ crucified--*sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel.* It is so vain for false religion to imagine they are sanctifying sinners when they preach law rather than the gospel. Christ is the gospel! Christ is the Truth (Righteousness); He prayed to the Father,

John 17: 17: Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth... 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

The mystery of godliness is Christ.

1 Timothy 3: 16: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The GodMan was Holy from the womb. He is Sanctification, he is the Truth. Christ took the place of his people as the one holy, faithful, righteous Servant of God representing his people. He separated himself from vain religion. Our Sanctifier gave himself and God made him sin for us. Therefore, Christ was made a curse for his people. Christ died and conquered death for his people. He arose with his people in him. Christ is our life is seated at God's right hand. John said as he is, so are we in this world. By this gospel, the Spirit of Christ enters into these dead, sinful bodies and we are born-again of the incorruptible Seed. He gives us the mind of Christ, the Spirit of Christ, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

2 Peters 1: 4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Christ our Holiness and Righteousness is formed in us and our new man is holy and righteous by Christ.

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, [having Christ as our High Priest with God]...22...[we] draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Sanctification is sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth, whereunto he called you by our gospel.

THE SON OF GOD, CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: BUT we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ gives us the glory the Father gave him before the world was made.

John 17: 22: The glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; [v8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; ...14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

The glory he gives is the gospel: to know the glory God the Father gave to Christ in eternity. The Father gave Christ the glory of being the Truth, of being the Covenant, of Being Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption for his people, of being Salvation! The Father gave Christ the glory of making his people one in Christ with God.

John 17: 22: The glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one even as we are one. 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; [in Christ our Perfection] and that [my redeemed all over] the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. [He has given us a foretaste but the best is yet to come] 24: Father, I will that they also whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.

Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ.

2 Thess 2: 15: Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. 16: Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17: Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

Amen!