

Series: 2 Thessalonians 2024

Title: Our Confidence in the Lord

Text: 2 Thess 3: 1-5

Date: Aug 24, 2024

Place: SGBC, NJ

Subject: Our Confidence in the Lord

Proposition: The confidence of God's saints is God our Father and our Lord Jesus alone through the Holy Spirit.

The three things in our text is all we need in this life. These three things will be our divisions. Our confidence for all three is the Lord.

Divisions:

1) We pray to the Lord to bless his word because the Lord is our confidence--**2 Thessalonians 3: 1: Finally, brethren, pray for us [ask the Lord], that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you: 2: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.**

2) The Lord is our confidence to establish and keep us--**3: But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil.**

3) The Lord is our confidence touching our obedience -**4: And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. 5: And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.**

THE LORD IS OUR CONFIDENCE TO BLESS HIS WORD

2 Thessalonians 3: 2 Thessalonians 3: 1: Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you: 2: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

God's people pray to the Lord because our confidence is in the Lord. That is so with God's preacher. We depend upon Christ for all. We need our brethren to pray to our Lord for us. God's preacher asks brethren, "*brethren, pray for us.*"

When you read of prayer in scripture, always connect it with God our Father and our Lord Jesus to whom we pray. It is not just the act of praying. We depend upon the Lord to whom we pray.

Our Lord has promised his people that he shall do all these things our text. But our Lord will have us ask him to do what he promised. The Lord promised to put a new spirit in his people and cause us to believe on him and walk by faith in our Lord Jesus and love one another. He promised to provide all our need. The Lord promised to multiply and build up his church. But listen to Ezekiel 36,

Ezekiel 36: 37: Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet *for* this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do *it* for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.

Prayer does not change God or alter his purpose. He already declared what he shall do and he shall do it. But prayer makes us bow to our Lord and acknowledge our confidence is in him alone to do all for us.

Two things we depend upon our Lord to do for his preachers.

The first thing has two parts in it. Paul said, "*that the word of the Lord may have *free* course.*" That means that the gospel would go forth freely wherever God will have us to preach. "*And be glorified, even as it is with you.*" That means that God would make his word effectual in the hearts of the hearers, even as he did those brethren in Thessalonica.

Paul was going to another place when the Spirit of the Lord told him to go to the Thessalonians—that is the first part of this first petition we ask of the Lord. “Lord, guide us where you would have us to go.” And when the Lord had sent Paul to these brethren, the Lord blessed his word in their hearts. That is the second part of this first petition.

1 Thessalonians 1: 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;

1 Thessalonians 2: 13: For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

The Lord promised he shall accomplish his purpose through the preaching of his word.

Isaiah 55: 10: For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it. 12: For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. 13: Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.

When he sends his preacher preaching his gospel and the Lord works effectually in his people by his gospel—*the Lord glorifies his name*. But God's preacher knows we cannot do this. Our confidence is in Christ our Prophet to send us forth to preach his gospel where he would have us to go and to work effectually in the hearts of his people.

2 Corinthians 3: 3 *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. 4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;

2 Corinthians 4: 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

The second thing we ask our Lord to do is this: God's preacher has confidence in the Lord to do this, “*And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*” God promised this. He told Jeremiah,

Jeremiah 1: 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant....17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

But the Lord will have us ask him. Paul had that promise of the Lord. But he asked the brethren to pray that the Lord will do this.

Unregenerate sinners hate God, hate our gospel and therefore hate God's preacher. Almost everywhere I go to preach, I meet with someone who hates the gospel. Usually, they let you know it. The gospel we preach declares all are sinners, “without Christ,...aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,...strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph 2: 12). The gospel we preach declares “Salvation is of the Lord.” Sinners are at the mercy of God. God our Father chose whom he would and whom he will he hardens. Christ laid down his life for the sheep and justified the elect. The Spirit of

God must regenerate and give life and all the blessings of God. So unregenerate sinners shoot the messenger because they hate the God who sent it. So our confidence is in the Lord to *deliver us from unreasonable and wicked men*.

Brethren, pray for us. Ask God to do this very thing with his preachers in every place.

THE LORD IS OUR CONFIDENCE TO ESTABLISH AND KEEP US

2 Thessalonians 3: 3: But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil.

The Lord is faithful.

Deuteronomy 7: 9: The Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God...

Numbers 23:19: God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it?* or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

The Lord is faithful to uphold the moon, stars, the elements, the seasons. He uses all that to illustrate his faithfulness to his people in his everlasting covenant established in the blood of Christ for his people. I thought of this when brother Ian sent me a picture of a rainbow at Niagra Falls.

To reprobate sinners that rainbow is a celebration of sodomy. Unregenerate sinners are so brazen so as to boast they can establish the earth. But worse, they imagine they can establish themselves in righteousness by their works. But God uses all the elements and seasons to show he upholds those things and he shall uphold his people.

Jeremiah 5: 22: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand *for* the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? 23: But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. 24 Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest...30: A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; 31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love *to have it* so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

But to God's saints the rainbow reminds us of God's faithfulness to keep his everlasting covenant of grace established in the blood of Christ, "*the Lord is faithful, he shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*" After the flood, Noah's offering to God typified the one offering made to God by our Lord Jesus Christ for his people.

Genesis 8: 21: And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. 22: While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

So when we see those seven colors we remember God's faithfulness. Christ our Perfection who established his everlasting covenant of grace for us.

Isaiah 54: 9: For this *is as* the waters of Noah unto me: for *as* I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. 10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Jeremiah 31: 35: Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name: 36: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

“The Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” God the Father was faithful to fulfill every covenant promise to Christ his Son. The Son of God was faithful to fulfill every covenant promise to God our Father on our behalf “as a Son over his own house” (Heb 3:2-6). God the Father hath “given all things into his hand” (Jn 3:35), including all the elect of God. Christ shall keep us and present us to his Father, saying, “Behold, I, and the children which God hath given me,” not one is lost (Heb 2:13). The Spirit of God is faithful to take the things of Christ and direct our hearts to trust him alone. Our confidence is *“the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.”*

OUR CONFIDENCE IS THE LORD CONCERNING OBEDIENCE

2 Thessalonians 3: 4: And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. 5: And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Our confidence is in the Lord concerning the obedience of our brethren. Only God directs the heart of his people. He directs our hearts to behold his love for his elect. “Not that we loved God but that he loved us.” When we were yet ungodly sinners, God our Father sent his Son who propitiated God on behalf of his people. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Spirit of our Lord which Christ has given unto us. Thereby the Lord directs our hearts to love God and to love our brethren begotten of him.

Therefore, when our brethren suffer or fall or have need, the Lord directs our hearts to speak to brethren “the love of the truth,” as Paul is doing to his brethren in this epistle. Paul is speaking the good news that Christ has and shall establish us by his faithfulness. The Lord directs our hearts to his throne of grace to pray to Christ for mercy and grace to help in time of need, as Paul is doing here. And the Lord directs our hearts to *patiently wait for Christ* who is faithful to provide all that his people need. Paul trusted the Lord to do this in them. And by the Lord's faithfulness, directing our hearts, we patiently wait for his return.

The Lord had done this in Paul and in his brethren. He has done it in you who know him. That is why our confidence is in our Lord. *“We have confidence in the Lord touching you.”*

Galatians 5:10: I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded:...

Paul's confidence was not in their grace or strength or wisdom or conduct or good behaviour. His confidence was in the Lord: in the Lord's grace and strength, and the power of his might.

Our Redeemer has taught us not to trust in ourselves. He taught us not to lean to our own understanding nor to trust in our works. The Lord taught us to have all our confidence in the Lord alone!

Psalms 118: 8: It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Philippians 3:3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

God's saints live by Christ Jesus directing our new hearts into his love to patiently wait on him.

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God's saints will sin and have troubles. But we wait on the Lord. Despite all the sin at Corinth, Paul's confidence was the Lord's faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 1: 5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge; 6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5: 23: And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24: Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

Pray for us, brethren. Ask the Lord to direct his preacher where God will have him to be. Ask the Lord to bless the word to the hearts of his people. Ask the Lord to deliver his preachers from unreasonable and wicked men, for all men have not faith.

Personally, always remember, “the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” Have all your confidence in the Lord to establish and keep you.

Concerning your brethren, have all your confidence in the Lord to make them obedient to him. This takes heart-faith. So ask the Lord to direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ. In every trial, Christ will come. Christ will establish your brethren. Ask God to give you grace to love your brethren and wait on Christ to work in them.

Amen!