

Sermon Handout

Chosen, Loved, Consoled, Hopeful II Thessalonians 2:13-17

Introduction (a chiastic arrangement)

Prayer of gratitude vv. 13-14

Exhortation v. 15

Benedictory prayer vv. 15-16

- I.** God chose you from the beginning v. 13
- a. Same phrase in Dt 7:6-8; 10:15; 26:18
 - b. Eph 1:4; *cf.* II Tim 1:9; I Cor 2:7
 - c. The Word and Spirit accomplishes our salvation I Thess 1:4-5
 - i. “holiness by the Spirit” (*cf.* I Pet 1:2)
 - ii. “faith by the Word” (*cf.* Rom 10:17; I Cor 15:1-2)
- II.** God has loved us v. 16a
cf. v. 13 “. . . you, brothers, having been loved by the Lord . . .”

God’s love for us is stated in connection with our salvation

v. 13 “from the beginning,” chosen

v. 16 God has given us eternal consolation

Our salvation is God’s doing only Eph 2:8

It begins with God’s prior love in eternity past

(**not** simply his foreknowledge of our “choice”)

- III.** God’s truth consoles us v. 16b (*see* Rom 15:5; II Cor 1:3)
- The Thessalonians were concerned about judgment
- Eternal – I Thess 4:13-18
- Temporal – I Thess 5:1-11; II Thess 2:1-12
- “comfort one another” in I Thess 4:18 & 5:11
- Timothy’s report: their particular concern is about temporal judgment
- Paul: God consoles (encourages) them (*the God of all comfort*)

- IV.** We have a “good” hope in (through) grace v. 16c-17
- Enduring hope a major theme of the two letters I Thess 1:3; 2:19; 4:13; 5:8
- a. Christians are encouraged to remain steadfast (faithful, persevering) v. 15
 - b. Perseverance & God’s consolation lead to hope through grace Rom 15:4
 - c. We are to trust the “God of hope” Rom 15:13
 - d. God himself comforts & establishes our speech and actions
 - cf.* Eph 2:10 – we are saved “unto” good works
 - Good works are a product of God’s saving grace *cf.* 1:12