

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Wednesday Sermon

Date: August 05, 2020

Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:15 to 3:5

Scripture Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:15 to 3:5

Subject: Hold fast; be comforted and encouraged

In the first fourteen verses of chapter two, we saw the encouragement to the Thessalonians concerning the day of Christ and the fact that they were not then in the day of Christ. We saw that they would know they were in that time because there would be an apostasy and the man of sin revealed. Then we saw how the apostles gave thanks for this church because they were chosen of the LORD from the beginning and were called by the gospel.

Now, let us study verses 15 through 17 of this second chapter and go on into the first five verses of the third chapter as the LORD enables us.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (KJV) *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

Therefore, -- Because of God's choosing, his calling you by the gospel, and your salvation through the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Brethren, stand fast,-- He doesn't say, "You are chosen to salvation, and therefore you may be careless and secure;" but therefore stand fast. God's grace in both our election and our vocation is not to suspend our diligent care and endeavor of our life and walk. That God has chosen us ought to give us greater resolution and diligence. The apostle John had spoken of the anointing, the Holy Ghost which we have of the LORD and have no need that any man teach us. The Holy Ghost is in us to comfort us

and to teach us. Then the Apostles John commanded us to abide in him.

1 John 2:27-28 (KJV) *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

Let us remember that the canon of scripture was not complete because the New Testament was being written at this time. Because of that, most of what the churches learned was delivered by the apostles in their preaching, under the guidance of the infallible Spirit. Therefore, the Thessalonian church and all of us in this day are bound to understand it came from God.

and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. -- Hold fast to those things lest at any time you let them slip. Traditions are those things which were orally taught which include bible doctrine and instruction. This was the method used during the days of the apostles including Paul while he was writing letters to the churches and to some of his brethren. Let us not be deceived into thinking there are new methods for us today as the Lord's churches. Why is that? Those things which were handed down orally and in letters by the apostles have been preserved in God's precious word. How blessed we are that we can read the very things which consisted of the apostles' doctrine. Let us ever and always preach the pure gospel of Christ how that he died to save His people from their sins. What glorious news, indeed! Let us baptize believers who profess faith in Jesus Christ as their savior where there is much water so that we can bury them with Christ and raise them up again to walk in a new life

to follow his steps and walk even as He walked. Let us keep the Lord's Supper as he delivered it to us as members of his church partaking of the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine – and in that remember his wonderful sacrifice for our sins by his broken sinless body and shed blood and showing his death till he come. Let us be very careful to observe every commandment of the New Covenant given us by our Lord and his apostles. Truly, beloved, let us "hold fast till He come!" When our Lord comes, He will find us so doing. We shall be blessed, indeed, for keeping those traditions which are the words of the living God

which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

– None of us learned God's word all at once. We were as babes who had need of milk when we first believed. We did not know then the meaty doctrine of Christ and all that was behind our salvation and all that was in store for us as His dear children. Nor do we yet know the fullness, but His spirit has revealed to us much of what God has prepared for them who love him. We have learned here a little and there a little; precept upon precept and line upon line. We began with a little knowledge of Christ but have grown in the grace and knowledge of Him who loved us and gave himself for us. Let us continue to be sure what we hear and how we hear. Let us prove all things and hold fast that which is good. Let us be sure that we maintain the discipline of the church and watch over one another unto prayer. In this day in which we now live, let remember to mark them which cause divisions and teach doctrine contrary to that which we have learned, and avoid them.

Paul, Timothy, and Silas had taught them verbally (by word) when they were among them at Thessalonica. At this point, Paul had written to them the first letter in which they had gained more knowledge of the will of the LORD. And they are continuing to learn. This is a part of the reason they were faithful to assemble

together – to worship and to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (KJV) *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, --*

Both our precious savior and Lord, Jesus Christ and God, our father have loved us with an everlasting love, as wicked and undeserving as we are. Because that love was set on us, the Father chose us and sent His only beloved son to die in our place and in our stead on the cross at the hands of wicked men. When he died, he saved us eternally from our sins and reconciled us to God.

Both the son and the father have given us ***everlasting consolation and good hope through grace***, -- think of it: Everlasting consolation! That consolation will never stop. This word "consolation" comes from the Greek word: παρακλησις paraklesis. The word appears twenty-nine times in the New Testament and is translated 14 times as consolation, 8 times as exhortation, 6 times as comfort, and 1 time as entreaty. All of these various English words give us the correct idea. What is consolation or console? Consolation is a noun and console is the very form of the noun. Console means: "To comfort in mental distress or depression; to alleviate the sorrow of others; to free from the sense of misery." (OED). Our Heavenly Father is the God of all comfort." Watch this:

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (KJV) *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who **comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to **comfort** them which are in any trouble, by the **comfort** wherewith we ourselves are***

comforted of God. **5** For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our **consolation** also aboundeth by Christ. **6** And whether we be afflicted, it is for your **consolation** and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be **comforted**, it is for your **consolation** and salvation. **7** And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the **consolation**.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 (KJV) Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

-- The Thessalonians were in the midst of trials, and Paul prayed that they might have the full consolations (comfort) in their good word – their preaching and study and in their work. The work of the gospel. How oft do all of us need comfort in the word and work of the LORD! And, we shall have it. What a blessing to know that. The God of all comfort will comfort our hearts and stablish us as he did this beloved church of his in every good word and work as we continue to follow the steps of our precious Lord and walk even as He walked.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (KJV) Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, -- Wonderful request for prayer! That the word of the LORD may have free course. That it will go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and that we shall see the LORD's working among us.

And be glorified, even as it is with you: -- The word of the LORD is glorified when it is earnestly listened to by large numbers – when they hear it with conviction, encouragement and reverence. It

is glorified when it is received by those who love it, who greatly esteem it, who quickly embrace it and cheerfully obey it. It is glorified when sinners are converted by it, and the lives of the believers are drawn to the LORD. The phrase “even as it is with you” shows us that the word of the LORD it was glorified in Thessalonica. Praise the LORD!

2 Thessalonians 3:2 (KJV) *And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*

In this verse, the apostle continues his prayer request for the Thessalonians. For deliverance from unreasonable and wicked men. There are many of those about. It is definitely true that “all men have not faith.” Most are on the broad road which leads to destruction and are “dead in trespasses and in sins.”

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

But the LORD is faithful, -- What a wonderful statement! The LORD is faithful – always faithful. He is true to His word and “having begun a good work in us who are his, shall continue until the day of Christ.” He will provide all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. He will never leave us nor forsake us! Indeed, He will be with his churches unto the end of the age, then receive us to himself in glory where we shall be with him forever!

Who (the LORD) shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. –

He will fix us, settle us, and make us firm in the word of the LORD not only for now, but permanently. He will shield us from evil – keep us back from it; steer our steps around it. We can never be absolutely from evil in this life because of the conflict with our carnal nature – but the LORD will keep us from the dominion of it, from its reigning unto death, and from the damning power of it. He

will help us with Satan's schemes, snares and temptations, so that we shall not be entangled and overcome by them. The LORD will never allow any of us to be tempted above that which we are able, but will, with the temptation, provide a way of escape that we shall be able to bear it. (1Co. 10:13).

2 Thessalonians 3:4 (KJV) *And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.*

What an encouraging word from the apostle to the members of this very young congregation. We (Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus) have confidence in the LORD touching you. The apostle knew the LORD was working in them continuously both to will and to do of His good pleasure. As a result, Paul knew that they were now doing the things which Paul commands them and that they would continue in those good things.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (KJV) *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

This is Paul's prayer for them. That the LORD direct their hearts into the love of God – undoubtedly the love with which God loves his people, which is free, sovereign, unchangeable, and from everlasting to everlasting. Too, this speaks of the love of God which was shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost which was given them.

And into the patient waiting for Christ. – O, brothers and sisters, we know not the day nor hour when our Lord doth come, but we do with patience wait for his glorious appearance. We remember the apostle had commended the Thessalonians for this patient waiting in the first chapter of the first letter to the Thessalonians. All of us have great need of patience to continue God's work until the LORD returns for us – and to endure trials and

tribulations which come upon us. Let us never be moved by these difficulties, for our God has appointed us to them.