

## **FIX ME LORD JESUS! NOT FIX IT! FIX ME! 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17**

One offering that is clearly desired by God is not so much our stuff-  
It is surrender of our total selves.

### **2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17**

*<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. <sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*

**When it comes to biblical prophecy, sometimes it seems as though we are engaged in a game of “20 Questions” with God.**

**God gives just enough information to reveal the basic outline of the future. This means we can find assurance in God's ultimate triumph without charting our lives independently.**

**By refusing to chart the specifics, Jesus prevented us from becoming obsessed with the end times to the exclusion of the present moment.**

**So we study 2 Thessalonians, investigating the plan of God as he reveals it. Then we live one day at a time, devoting ourselves to righteousness as we anticipate that day when we will share in his glory.**

**Every believer has three responsibilities to God's truth.**

#### **1. PERSONALLY BELIEVE THE TRUTH (2:13–14)**

*<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We have noted Paul's repeated thanksgiving in his letters to this church  
**(1 Thess. 1:2; 2:13; 3:9; 2 Thess. 1:3; 2:13).**

Paul gave thanks for the way they responded to God's work in their lives.  
In these two verses, Paul reviewed the stages in their salvation experience.

**God loved them** (v. 13a).

**God chose them** (v. 13b).

**When we didn't deserve to be on the TEAM- God chose us...**

**Ephesians 2:10-** we are God's workmanship... we are His masterpiece...

**God set them apart** (v. 13c). The word sanctify means "to set apart."

There is a progressive sanctification that makes us more like Jesus Christ  
**(1 Thess. 5:23).**

But the sanctification Paul mentioned here refers to the Spirit's work in leading the unbeliever to faith in Christ.

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit" **(1 Peter 1:2).**

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to the sinner **(John 16:7-11).**

**God called them** (v. 14a).

The same God who ordained my salvation also ordained the journey to get to that moment... **The moment I first believed...** ("belief of the truth").

**What begins with grace always leads to glory.**

**This is quite a contrast to the future assigned to the lost (2 Thess. 1:8-10).**

We are awaiting Christ's return, and then the glory shall be revealed  
**(2 Thess. 1:10).**

Being neutral about God's truth is a dangerous thing.

It has tragic eternal consequences.

This leads to Believers' Responsibility #2-

## **2. GUARD THE TRUTH (2:15)**

*<sup>15</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.*

God works in this world through the truth of His Word, and Satan opposes this truth by substituting his lies.

**Human nature is prone to believe a lie and resist the truth.**

God's truth was not invented by men: It was handed down from God to man (**1 Cor. 15:1–6; Gal. 1:11–12**), and each generation of believers had guarded this truth and passed it on to others (**2 Tim. 2:2**).

Paul stated clearly the believers' dual responsibility in guarding the truth: *"Stand firm, and hold fast to the teachings..."* (2 Thess. 2:15). Stand firm means "Do not move away from the truth of the gospel" (**see 1 Cor. 16:13; Col. 1:23**).

Each generation of Christians must receive the truth from others, guard it, and make sure it is kept intact for the next generation. It is not easy to stand or hold, because forces around us want to move us from the faith.

The enemy knows how to use lies to oppose God's truth, and he seeks to do this within the fellowship (**Acts 20:28–32**).  
Let me sum this up with two words of caution.

**First, "the faith" that has been handed down to us must not be confused with man's interpretations and ideas.**

The Pharisees made their own interpretations as sacred as the Word of God (**Mark 7:7–9**).

**The basic doctrines of God's Word are held by all evangelical believers, but not all believers agree on minor matters of interpretation (especially in the area of prophecy) or matters of church order.**

It is dangerous to make man's ideas a test of fellowship or spirituality.

**Second, we must not embalm the truth so that it loses its life and power.** Man has a way of trusting his own ingenuity and methods and programs over the simple power of the Holy Spirit...

Finally- we need to

### **3. PRACTICE THE TRUTH (2:16–17)**

*<sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*

It is not enough to believe the truth and guard it; we must also practice it. If we hear the Word but do not obey it, we are only fooling ourselves (**James 1:22–25**).

These two verses record Paul's desire and prayer for his friends:

**He wanted God to encourage them ("comfort your hearts") and establish them (strengthen) "in every good word and work."**

Both of these words are prominent in the Thessalonian letters.

**Establishment in the Lord is also an important theme.**

**If you are not established- you will never be strong!**

One of the best ways to guard the truth is to live what we say we believe!

**It is good to be defenders of the faith, but we must not forget to be demonstrators of the faith.**

**Lazarus did not have to give lectures on the resurrection.**

**People had only to look at him and they believed (John 12:9–11).**

**WE NEED TO BE ANOINTED FOR OUR ASSIGNMENT!**

**IF WE ARE TO BE INSTRUMENTS OF FAITH-**

**HE IS FIXING HIS FERVOR IN YOU AND ME...**

**Fix me so that I can walk on a little while longer.**

**Fix me so that I can pray on just a little bit harder.**

**Fix me so that I can sing on just a little bit louder.**

**Fix me so that I can go on despite the pain,  
the fear, the doubt, and yes, the anger,**

**I ask not that you take this cross from me,  
only that you give me the strength**

**to continue carrying it onward 'til my dying day. Oh, fix me, Jesus, fix me.**

