

**I. Be Steadfast - 2 Thess. 2:13-15**

1. Always thank God for you (**verse 13**)

A. Reasons to be thankful

1) God chose them as firstfruits

-their salvation was a work of God's grace received by faith

-selected for something - to be the firstfruits

2) through the sanctifying work of Holy Spirit

Rea -"How" they were saved (part of it)

Rea -the other part of it - they believed - note that God did not believe for them, they must believe

3) once again - how did this happen - He called them (**verse 14**) - through out gospel

-so that you might share in the glory of our Lord

Rea B. Don't miss this... called to enable them to be saved - and share in the glory of Jesus

-don't miss also that he thanks GOD for all this - he didn't thank THEM

2. Because of this (**verse 15**)

A. You stand firm in your convictions - teachings

B. Received by word or letter

Rea C. Implies they are in danger of "slipping" away from these things

-the old word for that is "backsliding"

Rea -"teachings" in the NIV is "traditions" in the KJV - a good use of the word traditions - often we hang onto our traditions because they are good, they are worth hanging on to

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Once again don't miss "brothers and sisters" (this is about the fourth time in our study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians) - so is it okay to call me "Bro Jerry?"

2. A decided focus on people - he is not thankful for their facility - not even the numbers of people there - but for their faith in Jesus

3. First fruits comparable to our "charter members?"

**II. Be Encouraged - 2 Thess 2:16-17**

1. A prayer of blessing for them (**verse 16**)

2. Two names for God - Jesus Christ and God our Father

3. He gave us:

A. Eternal encouragement

-their future is secure

Rea B. Good hope - hope for the "now" - not for later

Rea 4. How - by "grace" - emphasizing that He didn't have to do it - it is a gift

5. Two prayer requests: (**verse 17**)

A. Encouragement - internal stamina

B. Strength - in every good deed

Rea -a mature and strong plant is the one that produces fruit

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Why do we fail in the “good deed” department?
2. He could’ve prayed that they have lots of room at their house, or that they make a lot of money or that their allergies clear up
3. Discuss perseverance and what is required to hang in there

### **III. Be Prayerful - 2 Thess. 3:1-2**

- Rea 1. “Brothers and sisters” - again (**verse 1**)
2. Pray for us
- Rea -for what?
- A. That the message spread rapidly
- B. That the message be honored - just like with you - respected and seen as valuable
- Rea C. It’s not his message it is the message of our Lord
- D. That we may be delivered from wicked and evil people
- opponents were everywhere
- he never shied away from suffering but on the other hand he asked for prayer in the midst of persecution
- Rea 3. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you - the words of Jesus (**Verse 2**)
- it has been my experience that when you speak up for Jesus, that’s when the persecution starts
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Take a moment right here to collect prayer needs
  2. Is it selfish for Paul to ask for prayer? - of course not
  3. His concern is about the message (first)
- rarely do we hear this prayer request surface on Wednesday night prayer time

### **IV. Be Confident - 2 Thess. 3:3-5**

1. God is faithful - He will help (**verse 3**)
- to strengthen, and to protect
- Rea -this faith is looking forward - faith is forward oriented
- Rea -he is certain that God will help
2. Protection from the evil one - Satan
- Rea -Jesus’ prayer - “deliver us from the evil one” - Lord’s Prayer
3. Confidence in the Lord (**verse 4**)
- Rea -is that faith?
- Rea -is that faith in them as well?
- Rea -they did not need to do anything new, but just continue to do what they are doing
4. Next prayer request - that God would direct their hearts (**verse 5**)
- Rea -in what direction? - in the direction of God’s love and Christ’ perseverance
- Rea -directed in spiritual directions
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. I’m struck by how these prayer needs are so very relevant for me and my life - I need more love and perseverance
- I need encouragement and strength (spiritual strength)
2. The devil is alive and well - in Paul’s day and also in ours

3. He is confident that God will help

- He will provide all our needs -not just the physical ones

- we ought pray for the spiritual needs, not just the physical ones

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