The Day of the Lord and Believers

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Introduction:

Review: To remind us of the context of these last verses of Chapter 2,

1. Paul started this chapter by explaining that they were not already in the “Day of the Lord” (2:1-5)

2. Then he showed them the relationship between the Day of the Lord and the unbelievers (2:6-12)

In these verses 13-17 he will explain the relationship between the Day of the Lord and the believers.

I. Their Position – 2:13-14

A. Their Situation – 2:13a

1. They Are Brothers of Paul

“But we are ﻿﻿bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren”

In contrast to the unbelievers for which he had no thanks to give, Paul had to give thanks for these faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Thessalonica.

2. They Are Beloved by God -

“beloved by the Lord”

The reason they could be loved by Paul was that they are loved by God as we see in the next few verses.

B. Their Selection – 2:13b

1. The Father Chose

“because God ﻿﻿from the beginning ﻿﻿chose you”

“chose” is not the usual word for election. It is found only two other times in the N.T.

Philippians 1:22

“But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose [αἱρήσομαι] I do not make known.”

Hebrews 11:25

“Moses…choosing [ἑλόμενος > αἱρήσομαι ] rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the ﻿﻿passing pleasures of sin,”

The word for election is ἐκλέγομαι [See Eph. 1:4],

“just as ﻿﻿He chose ἐξελέξατο > ἐκλέγομαι us in Him ﻿﻿before the foundation of the world.”

For the above reasons, I do not see this choosing as election to eternal life, but rather to escape the tribulation. (There is more to come on the meaning of salvation.)

2. The Holy Spirit Conferred

“through sanctification by the Spirit”

Sanctification has three parts,

1. Past - A Position - Believers are set apart to God at the time of believing.
2. Present – A Process – Believers being sanctified as they study the Word and are convicted by the Holy Spirit.

John 17:17

“Sanctify ﻿﻿them by Your truth. ﻿﻿Your word is truth.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding ﻿﻿as in a mirror ﻿﻿the glory of the Lord, ﻿﻿are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, spirit.”

1. Future – A Prospect – This is the completion of our sanctification, when we see Jesus we know that when He is revealed, ﻿﻿we shall be like Him, for ﻿﻿we shall see Him as He is.

Paul may have all three in mind, but mainly, our past sanctification which placed us into the Body of Christ, the Church.

3. The Thessalonians Concurred

“and belief in the truth,”

This is in contrast to verse 12 with, “those who will go into the tribulation” that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but ﻿﻿had pleasure in unrighteousness.

C. Their Salvation – 2:13c

“for salvation” – “deliverance”

The meaning of this word (as with all words) has to be determined by context. (See handout)

It does not appear again in this epistle. However, it does appear in 1 Thessalonians 5:9,

“For ﻿﻿God did not appoint us to wrath, ﻿﻿but to obtain salvation [σωτηρίας] through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

As we noted in that passage, the “wrath” is a reference to the tribulation and the “salvation” refers to the believer’s deliverance from that “wrath.” Paul’s purpose in the second epistle is to clarify some of their misunderstandings about the first epistle. To use this crucial word with another meaning (especially when he is writing about the same subject) would only add to the confusion.

D. Their Glorification – 2:14

1. The Appeal of the Gospel – 2:14a

“to which He called you by our gospel,”

Their being in the believing group is a direct result. The Gospel which was preached by Paul and his partners, at the beginning of the ministry there.

2. The Awarding of the Glory – 2:14b

“for ﻿﻿the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Not only will believers escape the tribulation, they will,

* Obtain glory
* Be like Him Who is the Glory
* Be with Him in glory, heaven
* Share in His glorious kingdom

The degree of the latter one will be rewarded for the believer’s service in His church, here and now.

II. Their Practice – 2:15-17

“Therefore, brothers”

A. Our Responsibility – 2:15

1. Stand Fast

﻿﻿

“stand fast”

These Christians were in constant tribulations and trials. They even thought that they were in the tribulation period. (2:2) Paul points out that their problems stem from heir not holding on to the truths which they had been taught.

They and we need to:

* Hear it in the first place
* Make sure that it is the Word of God
* Review it.
* Believe it
* Share it

Then the truth will not slip away from our minds or our lifestyle. Stand in that truth.

2. Hold On to the Word:

“the traditions which you were taught,

a. The Spoken Word

“whether by word”

Paul, taught the inspired, apostolic word. Titus and Timothy taught What Paul had taught them.

b. The Written Word

“or our ﻿﻿epistle.”

What the Apostle Paul wrote in his epistles, which have been saved in the Canon, was also inspired. Once that Canon was closed, (maybe as early as AD 70, there was no need for revelation and therefore no revelation has been given.

Unless the Holy Spirit forgot to give something that Jesus had taught. He (the Holy Spirit) will teach you (Apostles) all things (the Epistles), and bring to your remembrance (Gospels) all things that I said to you.” He will tell you things to come. (John 16:13)

B. Our Resources – 2:16-17

1. Their Source – 2:16a

“Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father,”

Notice the order – the Son before the Father. The Son spoke for the Father and “led Him forth” (John 1:18)

Whatever the order, the source is a reservoir that never runs dry,

Philippians 4:19

“And my God ﻿﻿shall supply all your need *according to His riches* in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Not “out of ” but “accordance to.” It never runs out!

2. Their Content – 2:16b-17

a. God’s Love – 2:16b

﻿﻿“who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and ﻿﻿good hope by grace,

“who” -- Singular Participle -- He (not they) loved us:

* The Father gave His Son
* The Son gave His life.

And there is no charge. If you want to pay your own way, you may; but it will cost you the same price He paid: Everything He had. For you, that will take all eternity.

b. God’s Life – 2:17

“comfort your hearts ﻿﻿and ﻿﻿establish you in every good word and work.

With that love comes comfort and hope. Comfort in the face of any temporary present distress.

Also God gives hope for the future. And that hope is good (ἀγαθὴν, “beneficial”) for it assures believers of the return of their victorious Savior. (See Context).

Conclusion: