

“The Solid Rock - A Firm Foundation”

Sunday, August 22, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI
Pastor Jonathan DeCou
2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

BIG IDEA: To end well, we must begin well.

*“So then, brothers and sisters,
stand firm and hold to the traditions you were taught.”
2 Thessalonians 2:15a (CSB)*

A Word of Thanks. (v13-14)

- Thankful because God loved them. (13a)
- Thankful because God chose them. (13b)
- Thankful because God sanctified them. (13c)
- Thankful because God called them. (14a)
- Thankful because God glorified them. (14b)

A Word of Exhortation. (v15)

- Stand firm. (v15a)
- Hold on. (v15b)

A Word of Prayer. (v16-17)

- Think of who God is to us. (v16a)
 - The Lord Jesus Christ. (16a)

- God our Father. (16a)
- Think of what God does for us. (v16b-17)
 - God loves us. (16b)
 - God encourages us. (16c, 17a)
 - God gives us hope. (16d)
 - God strengthens us. (17b)

BIG IDEA: To end well, we must begin well.

READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

THINK: Reflect on these words to the Thessalonians, then ask yourself these questions: *What helps you relieve stress? How do you think v13-17 struck the Thessalonians after reading about “the man of lawlessness” in 2:1-12? What encouragement do v13-14 give you as you face hard times? When are you most apt to thank God? How do you respond to the idea that God loves you? Without getting into a distracting theological argument, how does it make you feel to know God chose you? In what sense are you “sanctified by the Spirit” right now (v13)? Why does Paul emphasize “belief in the truth” right here (v13)? How is someone “called through the Gospel” (v14)? How is it that you are glorified in the Lord Jesus Christ now (v14)? How will you be glorified in the future? What does it mean to “stand firm” and “hold to the traditions you were taught”? To what traditions is Paul referring? Why do you suppose Paul invokes both the Lord Jesus Christ & God, the Father, as he begins his prayer (v16)? Of all the things Paul could ask God to do on behalf of the Thessalonians, why do you suppose he mentions these (love, encouragement, hope, & strength)?*

DO: How would others express thanks to God for what He is doing in and through you today? What do you need God to do for you right now: love you, encourage you, give you hope, strengthen you? Find some time this week to write out Paul’s prayer (v16-17) in your own words and then share that prayer with at least one other person.