

## AMAZED BY GOD'S SALVATION

### (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

#### I. The process (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).

- a. God's process for saving mankind was devised in the beginning.
  - i. The word beginning indicates the start of all things.
  - ii. From creation, God had a plan that would result in the salvation of the souls that would be separated from Him by sin.
  - iii. Both Peter and John were inspired to refer to Jesus as being in God's plan to save man before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8).
- b. God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that man would depart from Him through sin.
- c. Of course, this took place in the Garden of Eden.
- d. It was there that sin entered the world and the first couple was separated spiritually from God.
- e. Man had to have a way to be brought back to God.
- f. God devised His plan for the saving of man to include His only begotten Son, as mentioned.
- g. Paul reveals here that the plan involves sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.
- h. Sanctification of the Spirit refers to the divine side of the salvation process.
  - i. It is what the Holy Spirit does through the word of God.
  - ii. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth" (John 17:17).
  - iii. One is set apart from the world by the teaching of the Holy Spirit.
- i. Belief of the truth is man's side of the salvation process.
  - i. You and I have to believe the truth that is presented to us by the Holy Spirit in the word of God.
  - ii. Belief stands for all that a person must do to accept truth, not just believe only.
  - iii. Faith alone cannot save (James 2:17).
  - iv. It is not a belief in just anything, but a belief of God's word, which is truth.
- j. All of this is learned through the call of the gospel.
  - i. The gospel, which is God's word, is sent to all men, and calls all men to obey God.
  - ii. God does want and desire all men to be saved (2 Timothy 2:4).
  - iii. Notice there that inspiration tells us that men can be saved through a knowledge of the truth.
- k. The process which saves man came from God and was devised by Him before the foundation of the world.

- l. It is a plan by God to save those whom He has chosen to save.
    - i. The question then comes, “Who has God chosen to be saved?”.
    - ii. The answer is, those who are sanctified by the Spirit through their obedience to the truth.
    - iii. God has chosen the obedient to be saved and the disobedient to be lost.
  - m. Peter, by inspiration, put it this way... (1 Peter 1:22).
  - n. God’s process of salvation is for men to be set apart from the world by believing and accepting the Spirit’s teaching, truth, which is found in God’s word.
  - o. This will always be God’s process by which man receives salvation.
  - p. We know this because we are told by inspiration that this was God’s plan from the beginning.
- II. The purpose (2 Thessalonians 2:14).**
- a. The purpose is stated plainly: to obtain the glory of Jesus.
  - b. There are some that believe this to mean that we obtain glory for Jesus when we are saved.
  - c. However, the phrase “the obtaining” is not used like that in other places.
    - i. Notice 1 Thessalonians 5:9 – we obtain salvation by Christ.
    - ii. Also, Hebrews 10:39, where this word is translated “the saving” – we believe in order to obtain the saving of our souls is the idea.
  - d. By being sanctified by the Spirit through our obedience of the truth, you and I, and all who do that, obtain the glory of Christ.
    - i. Not His deity, we must make sure to point out.
    - ii. We obtain the glory of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18).
  - e. This looks to the end, when we shall be changed.
  - f. We will get to be like Christ (1 John 3:1-2).
  - g. It is the idea of being like Christ one day (Romans 8:17).
  - h. God designed the process of salvation for our benefit, namely for the purpose of allowing us to be glorified together with Christ.
- III. The plea (2 Thessalonians 2:15).**
- a. Remember, the context of this text.
    - i. There is a man of sin coming who will do great damage.
    - ii. Many people will be led astray.
    - iii. However, God has saved you and we are so thankful for that.
    - iv. You followed the process that God laid out from the beginning for salvation in Christ.
  - b. Now, inspiration makes a plea to stand fast in and hold on to the traditions they had received from Paul.
    - i. The word traditions, according to Thayer, means the particular injunctions of Paul’s instructions.
    - ii. Hold means to keep carefully and faithfully.

- iii. Notice that Paul was inspired to say the traditions may have come from his mouth or his pen.
    - iv. Either would suffice because both were inspired.
  - c. Inspiration pleads with the Thessalonian brethren to not give in to what was coming, but to persevere in the teaching that He had done there and in which he had written to them.
  - d. Once one has obtained salvation, we can't leave it.
  - e. Earlier, inspiration used the word chosen.
    - i. Calvinists have latched on to that to try and prove their false doctrine of unconditional election – that God has chosen certain individuals to be saved and not others.
    - ii. In order for Calvinism to be true, another tenet has to be true, which is perseverance of the saints, or once saved always saved.
  - f. Why would inspiration plead with us to stand fast, if we can't lose our salvation?
    - i. In Ellicott's Commentary, he wrote, "such an exhortation is, in itself, conclusive against a theory of irreversible predestination... if it were impossible for them to quit their ground, it would be needless to exhort them to maintain it".
    - ii. Obviously, inspiration is pleading with these brethren, and us, to not move away from the gospel, because that leads to being disobedient, which leads to being lost.
  - g. God has chosen the obedient to be saved, but one must remain obedient, stand fast.
  - h. Don't go anywhere, no matter what is coming.
  - i. Stay with the gospel is the plea.
  - j. We plead to men to obey the gospel, but we also plead with men to remain in the gospel.

#### **IV. The promise (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).**

- a. When those brethren, and us, stand fast in and hold to the gospel that Paul had preached by word and writing, they were and we are promised some things.
- b. We are shown we have God's love.
  - i. God loves all men in that He sent Jesus for all men.
  - ii. However, God's love is shown in a special way to those that obey Him.
- c. We are promised an everlasting consolation for those in grace.
  - i. Through would be better translated in.
  - ii. One must be in God's grace, into which one gets by following the process mentioned earlier.
  - iii. It is a good, or comforting hope.
- d. Jesus will comfort or strengthen our hearts.
  - i. The heart is a reference to the mind, or seat of our emotions.
  - ii. Our Lord strengthens us through His word, when we allow Him to do so.

