



Obtaining Glory (II Thessalonians 2:13-17)

By Word or Epistle

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through **sanctification by the Spirit** and **belief in the truth**, to which He **called you by our gospel**, for the **obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and **hold the traditions** which you were taught, **whether by word or our epistle**. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, **comfort your hearts** and **establish you** in every good **word and work**." II Thessalonians 2:13-17 NKJV

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☑ *"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God** from the beginning **chose you** for salvation through **sanctification by***

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God chose you...

- Do you remember the day when you first encountered the Lord?
- "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." John 15:14-16 NKJV
- You might recall that you invited Him into your heart.
- That is a completely legitimate perspective.
- Yet, if you pause for a moment and, if possible, go back and recall what you desired at that time.
- Something inside of you was desperate to know the truth, desperate for God.

- ☑ That was God ALREADY working in your heart, softening the scar tissue of a lifetime of sin, and calling you to Himself.
- ☑ Sure, that day you believed and confessed. But the only reason you were able to do so was because He FIRST chose you.
- ☑ **He called you to obtain glory!**
- ☑ God is glorious...
- ☑ "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and Him crucified.**" I Cor. 2:2 NKJV
- ☑ "But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery,** the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory,**" I Corinthians 2:7 NKJV
- ☑ "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 by the Spirit of the Lord." II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV
- ☑ "because the creation itself also will be **delivered from the bondage** of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**" Romans 8:21 NKJV
- ☑ The simple Gospel says it all. You are freely invited into the family of God via an act that was 100% Him and 0% you.

- ☑ After such, you are called to dive deep into a process that is meant to transform you into the image of Christ, to reflect His glory in the earth.
 - ☑ It is the only true path to restore creation to its unblemished form.

- ☑ *“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and **hold the traditions** which you were taught, **whether by word or our epistle.**”* // *Thessalonians 2:15 NKJV*
- ☑ **Keep the traditions...**
 - ☑ Nothing wrong with traditions except...
 - ☑ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay **tithe of mint and anise and cummin**, and have neglected the **weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith** [Luke 11:42 says justice and the love of God]. **These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**”* Matthew 23:23 NKJV
 - ☑ Do you see the nuance here?
 - ☑ It was a tradition to tithe these spices, not THE LAW. And that is perfectly fine, as long as doing so does not actually cause you to violate God’s laws.
- ☑ Man’s tradition could nullify God’s laws...

- ☑ "He said to them, "All too well **you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, **making the word of God of no effect through your tradition** which you have handed down. And many such things you do.'" Mark 7:9-13 NKJV
- ☑ "One person **esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike.** Let **each be fully convinced** in his own mind." Romans 14:5 NKJV
- ☑ "And **whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord** and not to men," Colossians 3:23 NKJV
- ☑ It is one thing to establish acceptable personal, cultural and societal traditions, but it's altogether different if by those traditions you literally break God's commandments.
- ☑ I can think of a traditions like the *Forth of July* and *Thanksgiving*. They are not biblical holidays, yet it is perfectly acceptable if you wish to engage in such

traditions to commemorate national holidays. Eat turkey and watch the fireworks—enjoy!

- ☑ Yet, if you serve a traditional baked ham and sport a barbecue with pork sausage and hotdogs—you are now making direct violations to God's law by your traditions.

- ☑ Enjoy your special days with enthusiasm and passion, but don't let those days cause you to sin!

- ☑ **By Word**

- ☑ We see many traditions in God's Word.

- ☑ "Your word I have hidden in my heart, **that I might not sin** against You." Psalms 119:11 NKJV

- ☑ "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.**"
Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV

- ☑ Know the word—implant the word in your heart.

- ☑ Contemplate and bask in it every day—all day!

- ☑ **By Epistle**

- ☑ Letters distributed to God's people, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

☑ "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? **You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart." II Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

☑ These New Testament letters explain doctrine, give instruction, offer encouragement and admonition.

☑ They teach, correct and direct the Church.

☑ And in turn, God's people are to reflect those messages in their lives, becoming living epistles of Christ to the world.

☑ *"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us **everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.**" II Thessalonians 2:16-17 NKJV*

☑ **By Grace...**

☑ It all begins with God's grace...

- ☑ "For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God," Ephesians 2:8 NKJV
- ☑ "Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ We are saved by grace by which God empowers us to have faith.
- ☑ That faith is confessed and with such we are justified in God's sight.
- ☑ Then we practice that faith, which opens up continual access to God's grace, that in turn empowers us to live a life of righteousness—to be blameless in His sight.
- ☑ **By grace we have... Everlasting Consolation**
- ☑ Comfort after loss or disappointment.
- ☑ "Blessed is the man who **endures temptation**; for when he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has **promised** to those who love Him." James 1:12 NKJV

- ☑ One of the main themes in both letters to the Thessalonians is Paul's acknowledgment and praise for their steadfastness in the midst of ongoing persecution.
- ☑ Paul ensures them that they will one day receive all the rewards God promises.
- ☑ This is a comforting word as they endure loss and disappointment.
- ☑ **By grace we have... Hope**
 - ☑ Hope will NEVER disappoint!
 - ☑ "And not only that, but **we also glory in tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. Now **hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:3-5 NKJV
 - ☑ The end-game of trials and tribulations is hope.
 - ☑ It might seem strange to think that the purpose of suffering is to build hope, but without the pressure point of pain, we would have nothing to fuel perseverance and character development.
 - ☑ Hope drives our willingness to endure and the outcome is the purest experience of God's love.
- ☑ **By grace we have... Comfort**

- ☑ We are not on this journey alone!
- ☑ "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot **sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.** Let us therefore **come boldly to the throne of grace,** that we may **obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."**
Hebrews 4:15-16 NKJV
- ☑ "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For **My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**" Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV
- ☑ Y'shua was fully God, but never forget He was also fully human, capable of the whole human experience.
- ☑ He knows your weakness because he too had to overcome in every way that you must overcome.
- ☑ How do you overcome? Go to the throne of grace.
- ☑ What will you discover? Rest, relief, and easy lifting!
- ☑ **Establish you...**
- ☑ Good Word
- ☑ "**All Scripture** is given by **inspiration of God,** and is profitable for **doctrine,** for **reproof,** for **correction,** for **instruction in righteousness,** that the man of God may

be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

- ☑ His word offers everything you need for your training in theology, to show you any errors, and to redirect your path to live a life in right-standing with God!
- ☑ With such you can be totally prepared to do the work he called you to do!
- ☑ Good Work
 - ☑ "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 NKJV
 - ☑ "**Delight yourself also in the Lord**, And He shall **give** you the desires of your heart. **Commit** your way to the Lord, **Trust** also in Him, And **He shall bring it to pass.**" Psalms 37:4-5 NKJV
 - ☑ The work you are called to is buried in your DNA—it was imparted to you even before you were born.
 - ☑ You job—be captivated by God; surrender your will; and put all your faith in Him. Every desire of your heart will be fulfilled as you submit to God.

NEXT TEACHING

Are Doing and Will Do (II Thessalonians 3:1-18)