

# 2 Thessalonians

Stand Fast (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

## Read: Stand Fast (2:13-17)

Greeting (1:1-2)

**1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,**

**To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:**

**2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

God's Final Judgment and Glory (1:3-12)

**3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.**

**11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Great Apostasy (2:1-12)

**1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or**

troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

**5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

#### Stand Fast (2:13-17)

**13** 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, **14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

**16** 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, **17** comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

#### Explain: Stand Fast (2:13-17)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some.

#### Are there any literary/structural observations?

After Paul reflects on the future certainty of God's faithfulness, he turns to encourage the Thessalonians to stand fast and hold on to what they were taught. He finishes this section with a prayer (which Paul inserts periodically into his letters) for the Thessalonians—which is still a supremely relevant prayer to pray today.

## Are there any repeated words?

**You**/your (6), our (5), God (3), Lord (3), brethren (2), Christ (2), give/given (2), good (2), Jesus (2), us (2), word (2)

Note that even in this very small text Paul still repeats the phrase “**Lord Jesus Christ.**” And the majority of the time in 2 Thessalonians it is “**our Lord Jesus Christ**” and not just “**the Lord Jesus Christ.**” There is great ownership and partnership in that phrase for Paul.

## What do the words mean?

**13 But we are bound** [present active indicative; to owe, be under obligation, behave, be bound, **debt**, due, be guilty (indebted), need, ought, owe, should] **to give thanks** [*eu***charis***teo*; present active infinitive; be grateful, express gratitude, say grace at a meal, give thanks; same word used in **1:3**] **to God always for you** [plural you], **brethren** [*adelphos*] **beloved** [*agapao*; **perfect** middle participle; to love, be loved] **by the Lord, because God from the beginning** [*arche*; a commencement, chief, beginning, corner, first, magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule] **chose** [second aorist middle indicative; to take for oneself, to prefer, choose] **you** [plural you] **for salvation** [*soteria*; rescue, safety, deliver, health, salvation, save, saving] **through sanctification** [*hagiasmos*; purification, purity, purifier, holiness, sanctification] **by the Spirit** [*pneuma*] **and belief** [*pistis*; same word used in **1:3, 4, 11**] **in the truth, 14 to which He called** [aorist active indicative; to call, bid, call forth, name (was called)] **you** [plural you] **by** [*dia*] **our gospel** [*euangelion*; good message, gospel], **for the obtaining** [acquisition, preservation, obtaining, peculiar, purchased, possession, saving] **of the glory** [*doxa*; glory (as very apparent), dignity, glorious, honor, praise, worship] **of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren** [*adelphos*], **stand fast** [*steko*; present active imperative] (our first imperative in **2 Thessalonians** so far); to be **stationary**, to persevere, stand (fast)] **and hold the traditions** [*paradosis*; a compound word from *para* (in the presence of) and *dosis* (the act of giving); a **gift**, transmission, a precept, the Jewish traditional law, ordinance, tradition] **which you** [plural you] **were taught** [*didasko*; aorist middle indicative; to teach, teach], **whether by** [*dia*] **word** [*logos*] **or** [*dia*] **our epistle** [*epistole*; epistle, letter]. **[What gift did Paul and his friends give the Thessalonians?** The gospel]

**16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father** [*pater*; father, parent], **who has loved** [*agapao*; aorist active participle; same word used in **2:13**] **us and given** [*didomi*; second aorist active participle; give, adventure, bestow, bring forth, commit, deliver (up), grant, hinder, make, minister, number, offer, have power, put, receive, set, shew, smite, strike, suffer, take, utter, yield] **us everlasting**



[perpetual, eternal, for ever, everlasting, world (began)] **consolation** [*paraklesis*; imploration, hortation, solace, comfort, consolation, exhortation, intreaty] **and good** [*agathos*; good, benefit, well] **hope** [expectation, confidence, faith, hope] **by grace** [*charis*; graciousness, acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, gracious, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks; same word used in **1:12**], **17 comfort** [*parakeleo*; aorist active **optative**; to call near, invite, invoke (by imploration, hortation, consolation), beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhortation, intreat, pray] **your** [plural you] **hearts** [*kardia*; heart, thoughts, feelings] **and establish** [*steridzo*; aorist active **optative**; to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, to confirm, fix, (e-) stablish, steadfastly set, strengthen] **you** [not present in the NA, but borrows here from the prior usage, so it too is a plural you] **in every good** [*agathos*; good, benefit, well; same word used in **2:16**] **word** [*logos*] **and work** [*ergon*; work, toil, act, deed, doing, labor].

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. **God** is to be thanked for faithfulness
2. Everyone needs encouragement to persevere
3. The gospel is a **gift**

### Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Thank God for faithful believers (and then tell the believers you are thanking God for them)
2. Encourage other believers to stand fast
3. **Give** it away

### Next week: Pray for Us (3:1-5)

**1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.**

**3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.**

**5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.**

### Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help

2. Read next week's text (multiple times/multiple ways) (**2 Thessalonians 3:1-5**)
3. Talk to someone about the text ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://fb.com/OurSundaySchool) or in person)
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://fb.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member

## Extra Credit

N/A

## Quotes & Observations

N/A