

*“Celebrating the Certainty of God in the Outworking of His Will”*

*2 Thess. 2:13-17*

*Finding Peace in the Midst of the Storm*

Paul writes to a troubled people. There are those from without who trouble the church (1:4, 7); there are those from within who trick the church (2:3). They are afflicted in body and in soul. Their experiences gave them no support or certainty. I am confident in saying their emotional responses were becoming less than favorable. To these people Paul provides a word of encouragement by reminding them of God’s efficacious work in them and through them to those around them.

I. God has chosen us for salvation (2:13).

God chose us. The word means, “To take for oneself, to prefer.” It occurs three times and only here to refer to God’s choice of you. The more common word is in the root word **elect**. It describes the people of God. The word also occurs in Ephesians 1:4, “Just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love.” The same root word is in First Thessalonians 1:4, “Knowing, brethren beloved by God, **His choice of you.**”

A. This is an occasion for gratitude (v.13a).

B. This identifies us as His beloved (v.13b).

C. This took place before the foundations of the worlds were poured (v.13c).

D. This happens through definable means (v.13d).

The choice of God to salvation is through definable means. His choice of you is causative. This means He not only chooses you, but also secures the means of getting the choosing accomplished.

*Continued on the other side...*

1. Through sanctification by the Spirit

2. Through faith in the truth

3. Through the gospel call (v.14a)

E. This results in the enjoyment of an eternal glory (v.14b).

II. God is calling us to steadfastness (2:15).

III. God will comfort us in service (2:16, 17).

A. The comfort He holds out to us is a comfort that we already have (v.16).

1. He loves us.
2. He has given us an everlasting comfort.
3. He has given us a good hope through grace.

B. The strength He gives is necessary for every good work and word (v.17).