God Has Chosen You To Salvation

Intro: Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians is one of the outstanding epistles in the New Testament pertaining to the second coming of Christ. Our study will center upon 2 Thes. 2:13 “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”

In the verses preceding this verse, Paul speaks of the wicked who have no love for the truth. In contrast to those who have no love for the Truth, Paul now speaks of those who are Christians.

I. WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD
   A. Providence.
      1. Providence is to make provision or preparation.
      2. General providence: God's care over the physical world; His care for His creation, including man.
      3. Special providence: God exercising control over natural events in answer to the prayers of saints and for the benefit of His children.
   B. God hath from the beginning chosen you.
      1. Beginning is used in a number of different ways.
         a. Beginning of time.
         b. Christ’s advent.
         c. Entering in of Christianity.
         d. Personal salvation.
      2. There is a textual discrepancy regarding beginning.
         a. The Nestle-Alan text has: ἀπαρχὴ (aparche) meaning “firstfruits.”
         b. The Textus-Receptus has: ἀπ αρχῆς (apo arche) meaning “from” and “beginning.”
         c. If the Textus-Receptus is correct:
            (1) It corresponds to “in the beginning” (Heb. Bereshith) in Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
            (2) It is in harmony with other Scriptures.
               (a) Eph. 1:4 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love;”
               (b) 2 Tim. 1:9 “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began;”
      C. It shows how precious we are as a Christian.
         1. We have been chosen or selected by God Himself.
         2. God selected us before the creation of the world.
         3. Never say that you do not count or that you are not important.

II. WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE OBTAINING OF SALVATION
   A. Salvation is applied in two ways.
      1. From past sins.
2. Eternally in heaven.
3. Both are embraced in the text.

B. “Through sanctification of the Spirit.”

1. The Spirit has a work to perform in the salvation of man.
   a. John 16:7-14 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

   (1) Summed up by reproving or convicting the world:
   (2) Of sin
   (3) Of Righteousness
   (4) Of Judgment

b. How does He perform that work?
   (1) The apostles:
      (a) The Spirit would come to them and
         (i) Guide them into all truth
         (ii) Show them things to come
         (iii) Bring to their remembrance all that Jesus said; John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

      (b) Acts 2
         (i) The Holy Spirit came to the apostles; Acts 2:1-4 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

         (ii) The apostles used words to accomplish the Spirit’s work.

   (2) The Spirit still accomplishes it through words—those found in the Scriptures.
      (a) Eph. 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;”
      (b) Rev. 2:1, 7 “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;... He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

2. Sanctification:
   a. 1 Cor. 1:2 “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”
b. Eph. 1:4 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

c. The word sanctification:
   (1) It comes from the same word group as holy or saint.
   (2) It is defined as: “consecration, purification…the effect of consecration” (Thayer).

d. There are two applications to sanctification:
   (1) Being purified
      (a) 1 Pet. 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”
      (b) Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
   (2) Being consecrated or imitating God’s holiness.
      (a) 1 Th. 4:1-4 “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. 3For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 4For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 5That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”
      (b) Gal. 5:22-25 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

3. Belief of the Truth
   a. Truth
      (1) John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
      (2) John 8:31-32 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   b. Belief
      (1) Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
      (2) Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

III. WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE LOVE AND RESPECT WE SHOULD HAVE FOR THE SAVED.
   A. Give thanks always for them.
      1. Have you ever had to worship and been by yourself or only a few.
      2. How thankful we should be for our brethren.
   B. Brethren.
      1. Members of the same family.
      2. Mat. 23:8-10 “But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. 8And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. 9Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.”
3. By right of being born into the family of God.
   a. The new birth; John 3:3-5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ‘Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? ’Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
   b. We are a new creature; 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation—NKJV]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
   c. We are children of God; Gal. 3:26 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

C. Beloved of the Lord.
   1. Our Lord loves us.
      a. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
      b. Eph. 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”
   2. We are to love one another.
      a. 1 John 5:1 “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”
      b. John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

Conclusion: What a wonderful opportunity to be beloved of the Lord by being sanctified through the Spirit and belief of the truth.