

TITLE AND NUMBER: 105. May God comfort and strengthen you!



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 17

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

LOOKING FURTHER: Romans 5:2, Genesis 15:6, Psalm 34:3

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Paul, Silas and Timothy were writing together to the church at Thessalonica during their travels and were obviously delighted to hear how people were getting on. It is fortunate for us that they were not in the days of video link, as then there may not have been records of their actions. But thankfully, we can read and see that the wonderful message of the Gospel was already spreading out to new parts of the world. The letter covers some very important points that are good for us to note:

1. God has a plan for people to be saved and He gave them opportunity to hear His word;
2. Salvation comes by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and by our willingness to believe;
3. When we accept salvation, we can share in the glory of the Lord Jesus.

What a miracle it is that God makes a way for each one of us to find Him! But that is only the starting point. Once we have taken that first step to believe, it is up to us to do our part to hold on to our new faith, and not allow the everyday demands of work, family, friends and the opinions of others to get in the way and spoil it. We need to keep on letting God teach us and encourage our faith.

Read the last sentence of the Bible passage again. What a lovely thing to wish for the people - that God would give them love, encouragement, hope and strength for all the good things they do and say! As brothers and sisters in Christ, these things apply to us today!

Reflections:

- How can we 'stand firm' in the teaching we have had about God? Do we read our Bibles regularly? Get some help from Bible notes, and spend some time reading Bible Studies like this one.
- Paul calls us 'brothers and sisters' because we all belong to the family of God. How do we treat others that we know? It is important that we try to support each other, for example with a word of encouragement. Look for an opportunity to do this during the week.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



STAND FIRM

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

