

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15  
The Presence of the Day of the Lord:  
The reason you don't have to fear the end – Part 2

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"Election is an act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure."

**Election is the word that describes God's act of choosing those He wants to save from His judgment.**

It's God's election that gives Paul confidence that the believers in Thessalonica will be saved from God's judgment.

- He wants them to know this so that they will calm down and trust God in their trials. Believer, the Lord wants you to know this as well.

- His election secures your salvation, and it's the grounds for your confidence in your trial.
  - It's the grounds that you may know that God is with you and for you.

**Now, in what Paul says to the believers, there are three aspects of your election that comes to light.**

1. It's Personal nature
2. It's Unconditional nature
3. It's Purposeful nature

**Let's delve in to look at the first aspect: it's personal nature**

**Personal election**

**V13a**: The reason for Paul's gratitude is because – God has chosen you

- Paul could have said – God has chosen the church in general, or God has chosen everyone who believes in Jesus.
  - This is the way some would explain God's election.
    - They say that Jesus is the elect of God, and anyone who believes in Him becomes with Him God's elect.
      - So, God doesn't choose individuals, He chose Christ.
      - ⇒ And all those who believe in Christ become elect with Him.
    - Others say that God has chosen the church as a group
      - Just like He chose Israel as a nation amongst other nations, so He chose the church, and anyone who becomes part of the church through faith in Christ becomes elect.

**In this view, you *become* elect/chosen by virtue of your *association***

But Paul doesn't say that – He doesn't say that he is confident of their salvation because they became part of a group

- His confidence is in God's choice of these individuals; "God has chosen you."
  - He is pointing his finger right at the believers in Thessalonica, at the individuals reading the letter.
    - He wants them to know that God has chosen them personally.
      - Yes, the pronoun "you" is plural – but it is personal
      - ⇒ It is referring to specific individuals

**They are elect by virtue of God's choice and not by virtue of their association**

Here is two other examples where Paul speaks about God's act of election

- Eph. 1:3-4a
- 2 Tim. 2:10

The effectual call of God also shows us that His election is personal: **Rom. 8:28-30**

- What does this call of God look like?
  - In **1 Thess. 1:5** Paul says why he can be confident that God chose them: **Read v5 His Gospel came to them in Spiritual power or the power of the Holy Spirit**

**Jn. 16:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

<sup>8</sup> "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

- Notice, the Gospel was preached to many people at once but only a few responded
  - **Acts 17:1-4**

**Now, one might say that their acceptance of the Gospel was their own doing but this is not the testimony of the Scriptures**

- **Matt. 22:14**
  - **Acts 2:39**
  - **Acts 13:48**

God effectively calls those He has chosen through the spiritual conviction of the Holy Spirit

- Clearly, the Holy Spirit does not work in everyone in this way
  - He effectively works only in those whom God has chosen, which tells us that God chooses specific individuals

Here is one more angle to see this truth:

- In **Jn. 10:26-29** Jesus says that the Father gave Him specific individuals to save

Now, for those of you who may be having a knee jerk reaction right about now

- Stay with me on this.
  - Rather than deny that God does this – which is crystal clear from the Word – acknowledge that God is doing something that you don't like because it seems unfair to you
    - I will give you the answer the Bible gives: **Rom. 9:18-21**

**Why do you deny God's right to do this – Do you not realize who He is?**

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."**

**Does the creator not have the right over His creation, to make from the same human race some for honourable use and others for dishonour?**

Now, what are the implications of the fact that God has chosen you personally?

**Rom. 9:10-16**

- 1) Your salvation from God's wrath rests on God's choice and not yours.
  - Your salvation is secure because He secures it!!
    - This does not mean that you can live as you lust and go to heaven at last
      - We will elaborate on this in part 4 but for now, see that God has chosen you for a purpose and He works in His elect to accomplish that purpose – holiness/sanctification is a result/fruit of God's election and not the basis for it

**This is why you don't have to fear the coming wrath  
The Day of the Lord to His elect is a Day of salvation**
- 2) When Christ returns, He is coming for you
  - Analogy: British parents reclaiming their children after WW2