Slide 1 Let’s open our Bibles to 2 Thes 2.

2 Thes 2:13-17

Who Chose Whom?

Slide 2 I’m going to read the first few verses of our passage and pray for us.

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, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. 2 Thes 2:13-15

Slide 3 Tonight we are going to look at a mini Soteriology.

Soteriology: The doctrine of Salvation

Chapter Seven: The Origin of Salvation  
Chapter Eight: The Theories of Salvation  
Chapter Nine: The Nature of Salvation  
Chapter Ten: The Evidence of Salvation  
Chapter Eleven: The Assurance of Salvation  
Chapter Twelve: The Extent of Salvation (Limited or Unlimited Atonement)

Chapter Thirteen: The Extent of Salvation (Universalism)

Chapter Fourteen: The Exclusivity of Salvation (Pluralism)

Chapter Fifteen: The Results of Salvation (Infants and Heathen)

Chapter Sixteen: The Condition for Salvation

Chapter Seventeen: The Contents of Salvation

Slide 4 We have to remember that Paul is comforting the saints in Thessalonica by reminding them that they are completely different than those who are headed for the Day of the Lord.

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 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, 2 Thes 2:11-13

* But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 1 Thes 5:4,5

Slide 5 We see that Paul was continually thankful to God for the Thessalonians.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you v13a NKJV  
But we should always give thanks to God for you, v13a NASB

* Should / Bound: to be under obligation
* Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles,  
  And sing praises to Your name. Psalm 18:49

Slide 6 Paul puts in this little phrase that is very important to remember.

brethren beloved by the Lord v13b

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:1,2

Slide 7 We now see when God decided to save the saints in Thessalonica.

because God from the **beginning chose you for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, v13c

* just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. Eph 1:4-6
* For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Rom 8:29,30
* “You did not choose Me, but I chose you John 15:16a

Slide 8 Here is a quote from John MacArthur on Sovern Election.

“Sovereign, divine election is all throughout redemptive history, it is the way God operates. And we know this, we instinctively know this. All true Christians know this. No one congratulates himself for his salvation. We all thank God. We all give Him praise and glory for saving us. We all understand the wretched fallenness of our hearts prior to salvation that we were unwilling and unable to change. His power came upon us by sovereign decree, and made us willing and made us able to do what we were neither willing nor able to do. We all know this. We don’t congratulate ourselves, we thank God for our salvation” (John MacArthur)

Slide 9 There’s a process that happens in our lives authored by the Holy Spirit we see in the last part of verse 13.

through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth v13d

* And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:11
* For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, Heb 2:11
* “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. John 17:19

Slide 10 Verse 14 reminds us of the entry point where we begin to understand our response to what God has initiated.

It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. v14 NASB

Slide 11 In the last half of verse 14 Paul reminds us of one of the blest privileges of being in the family of God.

that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 14b

* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Eph 1:3
* The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Rom 8:16:17
* In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. Eph 1:11,12

Slide 12 Verse 15 encourages the Thessalonians and us to stand strong and to adhere to what the word and the biblical disciplines teach us.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. v15

* Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 1 Cor 16:13
* Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, Phil 1:27
* “making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.” Mark 7:13
* Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. Col 2:8

Slide 13 We now close this chapter with a benediction, the utterance or bestowing of a blessing.

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, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. v16,17

**Our Lord Jesus and God our Father have given us:**

* + - Love
    - Eternal: Comfort, Solace, Refreshment
    - Good Hope
    - Strength of Heart
    - Founded in God’s Word and God’s Work

Slide 14 Let’s look back and summarize what we’ve learned from our passage.

* We aren’t those who will be deceived by the antichrist
* We are obligated to be thankful for one another
* God chose us to be saved and we need to embrace His sovereignty and eternal wisdom
* The Holy Spirit has sanctified us, is sanctifying us and will complete our sanctification
* Our entry point was through the Gospel
* We receive Jesus’ glory and we bring Jesus glory
* We stand firm, we aren’t shaken because we have His Word and work
* Jesus and the Father will comfort us and strengthen us through the entirety of our lives

Slide 15 Here is a quote from Spurgeon about the greatness of God’s plan even when life seems difficult and dark.

“Things are not what they seem. Dark nights are but the prelude to bright days. The rain shall be followed by the clear shining. When truth retreats, she only retires to leap to a greater victory. Though each wave as it comes up upon the shore may die, and you may think that there is no progress, yet the tide is coming in, even Jehovah’s tide of everlasting truth which shall cover all the earth. Be not discouraged! Go to your God. Get away, every man, from your circumstances and from your selves, and get to your Saviour and your Shepherd; and there, like sheep in the pasture, lie down to feed; and then, like sheep obedient to the shepherd, rise up and follow him withersoever he goeth.” (C. H. Spurgeon)