

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

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—**But** contrasts the damned (v. 12) with the saved. Opheilomen (ὀφείλομεν, 'we owe') thanksgiving for **brethren beloved of the Lord** (adelphoi ēgapēmenoi hypo Kyriou, ἀδελφοὶ ἠγαπημένοι ὑπὸ Κυρίου)—divine love secures them.

God hath from the beginning chosen you (heilato hymas ap' archēs, εἴλατο ὑμᾶς ἀπ' ἀρχῆς)—election before time. **To salvation** specifies the goal. The means: **sanctification of the Spirit** (Holy Spirit's setting apart) **and belief of the truth** (faith response). Divine sovereignty (election) and human responsibility (belief) cooperate. Those who love truth (v. 10) are those God chose.

Historical Context

Thessalonian believers, once pagan idolaters, were now in Christ—evidence of gracious election, not human merit. Paul's doctrine of predestination comforted persecuted Christians: their salvation didn't depend on circumstances or perseverance but on God's eternal purpose.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's electing love comfort you in trials where you feel spiritually weak?
2. How do divine election and human belief of truth both operate in salvation without contradiction?
3. Why does Paul immediately move from warning the damned to thanking God for the elect?

Interlinear Text

Ἡμεῖς δὲ ὀφείλομεν εὐχαριστεῖν τῷ θεῷ πάντοτε περὶ
we But are bound to give thanks ^{G3588} **God** **always** **for**
G2249 G1161 G3784 G2168 G2316 G3842 G4012

ὑμῶν ἀδελφοὶ ἠγαπημένοι ὑπὸ κυρίου ὅτι εἵλετο
you brethren beloved of the Lord because chosen
G5216 G80 G25 G5259 G2962 G3754 G138

ὑμᾶς ὁ θεὸς ἀπ' ἀρχῆς εἰς σωτηρίαν ἐν
you ^{G3588} **God** **from the beginning to salvation through**
G5209 G2316 G575 G746 G1519 G4991 G1722

ἀγιασμῷ πνεύματος καὶ πίστει ἀληθείας
sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth
G38 G4151 G2532 G4102 G225

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 1:9 (Salvation): 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,

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Salvation): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (Love): Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

Romans 9:11 (References God): (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Acts 13:48 (References Lord): And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Isaiah 46:10 (Parallel theme): Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Ezekiel 16:8 (Love): Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

Daniel 9:23 (Love): At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (Love): We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

1 John 4:10 (Love): Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.