

# 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

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**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 (όφείλομεν, 'we owe') thanksgiving for **brethren beloved of the Lord** (adelphoi ἔγαπέμενοι hypo Kyriou, ἀδελφοὶ ἡγαπημένοι ὑπὸ Κυρίου)—divine love secures them.

**God hath from the beginning chosen you** (heilato hymas ap' archēs, εἵλατο 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

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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

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**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

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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

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Ἐμεῖς δὲ ὁφείλομεν εὐχαριστεῖν τῷ θεῷ πάντοτε περὶ<sup>1</sup>  
we But are bound to give thanks G3588 God alway for  
G2249 G1161 G3784 G2168 G2316 G3842 G4012

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

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

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

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.