

2 Thessalonians 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Analysis

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle—**Therefore** draws application from election and calling. Two commands: **stand fast** (stēkete, στήκετε, maintain position, don't retreat) and **hold the traditions** (krateite tas paradoseis, κρατεῖτε τὰς παραδόσεις, grip firmly the teachings handed down).

Paradosis (παράδοσις, tradition) means authoritative teaching transmitted from apostles, both oral (**by word**) and written (**our epistle**). This isn't human tradition but apostolic deposit. Stability amid eschatological deception requires anchoring in revealed truth, not novelty. The elect persevere by clutching apostolic doctrine.

Historical Context

Before the New Testament canon was complete, oral apostolic tradition carried equal authority with written letters. Paul validates both forms of revelation. Later, written Scripture became the sole infallible authority, testing all tradition. But the principle remains: stand on apostolic truth, not contemporary speculation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'traditions' (core doctrines) have you been tempted to abandon under cultural pressure?
2. How do you distinguish authoritative apostolic tradition from mere human customs?
3. Why does standing firm in truth require active effort ('hold fast') rather than passive agreement?

Interlinear Text

ἄρα οὖν ἀδελφοί στήκετε καὶ κρατεῖτε τὰς
Therefore G3767 brethren stand fast and hold G3588
G686 G80 G4739 G2532 G2902

παραδόσεις ἃς ἐδιδάχθητε εἴτε δι' λόγου εἴτε δι'
the traditions which ye have been taught or by word or by
G3862 G3739 G1321 G1535 G1223 G3056 G1535 G1223

ἐπιστολῆς ἡμῶν
epistle our
G1992 G2257

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (Parallel theme): Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (Parallel theme): Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 (Word): That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Philippians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Romans 16:17 (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

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