



## ***The Christian is in a Battle. We Must Stand Firmly Committed!***

### ***What battles are we facing?***

**2 Thessalonians 2:15-17**, “<sup>15</sup> So then (therefore), brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. <sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

**(2:15) An Exhortation to Stand Fast.** “**Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our letter.**”

**Therefore, brethren, stand fast:** “**Therefore**” means that Paul wants us to consider what he has written up to this point.

**In this letter, he has given compelling reasons why Christians must stand fast and not be moved.**

- **Stand fast** in light of the current distressing issues (the *persecutions and tribulations* described in 2 Thessalonians 1:4).
- **Stand fast** because of the coming judgment of this world (*in flaming fire taking vengeance*, 2 Thessalonians 1:8).
- **Stand fast** because of the strength of coming deception (*all power, signs, and lying wonders*, 2 Thessalonians 2:9).
- **Stand fast** because of our glorious destiny (*the glory of our Lord Jesus*, 2 Thessalonians 2:14).
- **Stand fast and hold the traditions:** The command to **stand fast** implies a *location*, and this tells us what Christians must **stand fast** upon. They must keep standing on God’s Word, delivered both by the authoritative word of the apostles (**by word**) and the letters of the apostles (**our epistle**).

**Traditions:** The Bible recognizes that **traditions** can be a positive influence or a negative influence on us.

**Negative:** 1. **Dangerous feature of religious systems**, Matthew 15:2-3, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? Or, 2. **The traditions of man, Colossians 2:8**, “**See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.**”

**Positive:** 1. **What Paul has in mind is the apostolic traditions preserved for us in the record of the New Testament.** *Apostolic traditions: teaching the doctrines delivered by the apostle to the Thessalonians; whether in his preaching, private conversation, or by these letters.*

2. **Traditions = There is nothing wrong with standing on traditions that help us to maintain our upbringing of worthy Christian and Conservative values.**

*Just to change the way we do things in the church because some College theologian/professor counsels us to give into a style change, music change, stage look, etc. is not worthy of making the change. Change for change sake is not always good for we, the people called of God for His purpose. Progressive values and thought seem to yield to possibly changing ones’ beliefs as to what is Biblical discernment and a liberal lifestyle or unbiblical discernment.*

**Remember...It is only the anchor of God’s Word that can enable us to stand fast under the weight of our present tribulation as well as the thought of what is going to happen in the future for our children and grandchildren.**

**It will be worth it all when we “stand firm” and witness the joy of our coming glory.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17) “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.”**

**A prayer for the Thessalonians.** “Who **has loved us**”: Before Paul asked God to do something specific for the Thessalonians, he remembered all God *had* done for them. God has **loved** them, and gave them **everlasting consolation** and **good hope by grace**.

Note: In our intercession for others and petition for God's grace, we do well to remember God's past faithfulness and present blessing. His faithfulness in the past is a promise of His faithfulness for the future.

***“Comfort your hearts and establish you”:***

**Paul asked God to do two things in the Thessalonian Christians.**

1. He wanted God to **comfort** their **hearts**. Comfort their inner sanctuary...their anxieties, their thoughts and their will to be faithful.
2. He asked God to **establish** them **in every good word and work**. It is not the world that helps us in time of need; it is God's workings in us and others. If we do a good work, we have done it to establish the word in us and the ones benefitting from our work. Our work should not be done to be seen...but to promote the faithfulness of the God in whom we serve.

**“In every good word and work”:** There is some textual evidence that Paul originally put the order as *every good work and word*. In fact there are some translations that places “work” before the “word.”

**I think Paul mentions word and work or work and word simultaneously because he was preparing our hearts to understand we should not become lazy and rely on the word of others to direct us in lieu of getting on the battle field.**

*“Some Christian people think that ‘word’ should be everything and work nothing, but the Scriptures are not of their mind. These professors speak a great deal about what they will do, talk a great deal about what other people ought to do, and a great deal more about what others fail to do; and so they go on with word, word, word, and nothing else but word. They do not get as far as ‘work,’ but the apostle put work first in this case.”  
(Spurgeon).*

**Read “The Parable of the Orange Tree”...By Dr. John White**



**“The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few.”**