2Thess #133

All Believers can rest in eternal comfort

Open back up in 2Thessalonians chapter two. We have two key doctrines I think we need to cover before we close out this chapter.

2Thes 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers *and sisters* beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

The Apostle Paul has now covered the series of events leading up to the return of TLJC on earth. He is now reassuring these Bels about standing firm in their faith.

[2Th 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/14/s_1118014) It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Believers have the opportunity to obtain the highest levels of maturity, thereby, opening up all blessings, crowns and rewards already given to them in eternity past.

[2Th 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/15/s_1118015) So then, brothers *and sisters,* stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

Stand firm in where you have already gained momentum in the spiritual life.

Stand firm in what you have already learned.

Stand firm in the truth of the mind of Christ.

/[2Th 2:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/16/s_1118016) Now may our LORD Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and **given us eternal comfort**and good hope by grace,\

[2Th 2:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/17/s_1118017) comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

This will kick off a short series on eternal security.

This is a doctrine I have covered at least 3x since 2017. This will be a repetition-based series and I will do my best to hit it from a new angle…but this is how we learn and grow, repetition!!

Let us first look into two important words in verse 16;

/2Thes 2:16 - God our Father, **who has loved** us and **given us eternal comfort**

*aiōnios paraklēsis-(eternal comfort);* never ending or since the beginning of time to proceed forward, to be refreshed and comforted in counsel or direction.\

EYE-OWN-AY-US, PARAK-LAY-CEASE,

Eternal means forever, it is without measure. Nowhere within the definition or even the root words do you find an interruption or taking back what was given in the description.

Paraklesis, is where we find the root word for GOD the HS – the great Comforter, (PARA-CLAY-TUS) the spiritual guide and counselor of our soul.

Notice GOD the Father *has loved us* – written in the Greek aorist tense, pointing to something already complete, done in eternity past.

Virtue LOVE - which is impersonal and unconditional, even before we were born – God’s love is reflected in the formation of HIS grace plan for mankind.

/Eternal life, eternal sin, eternal punishment, eternal fire…etc. Is used over 70x in NT teaching and it is never defined as having an end or break within it. The basic concept of the word points backward to a time before time and forward to a never-ending time. The root word - *aiōn,* means ages upon ages, or sometimes used for a specific unbroken period of time. Yet the adjective - *aiōnios*, always means never ending.\

No beginning and no ending to be very specific.

Therefore, everywhere it is used in the NT teaching it is FOREVER…nothing interrupts it or stops it.

Right there should end the discussion or argument about losing your salvation, yet it still persists from many pulpits.

Real comfort for a Bel to learn and grow and even stumble and fail, comes from knowing the doctrine of eternal security.

Not just knowing it – believing in it!

 REPEAT

The other question I would raise to those who claim we can lose our salvation – is, what does God’s grace mean, if HE punishes us sporadically for our failures or sins?

That is God’s grace - sounds like man’s grace!

We need not go over 70 scriptures but at least look at these 3 and understand exactly what I am teaching you;

/Jhn 3:15 so that everyone who believes **will have eternallife in Him**. 16 “For **God so loved the world,** that He gave His only Son, **so that everyone who believes in Him** will not perish, but have **eternallife**.

Jhn 10:28 and **I give them eternal life**, and they will never perish; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand**.\

Please understand and fully digest the doctrine of eternal security.

No one can love, grow and learn in an environment where the threat of destruction is hanging over their head every day.

/Jhn 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who **hears My word, and believes** Him who sent Me, **has eternal life, and does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.\

Salvation is a grace gift given to all humanity and within salvation is eternal security.

Once you are in union with Christ it is never to be removed.

/Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, **nor things present, nor things to come**, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God**that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.\

Salvation and eternal security are not a select guarantee for certain people…it is not dependent upon bloodlines or skin color, works or intellect.

Black, white or brown…Gentiles or Jews, it is a matter of faith alone in Christ alone.

Many orthodox Jews would have you believe you are exempt from knowing GOD, because you are not of the tribe of Israel.

There has never been a time when Gentiles would be excluded from salvation just because of their race or bloodline…the human relations concerning blood ties means nothing!

/Everyone has been invited to join in the Royal Family of God; there never has been a blockade to salvation in the realm of bloodlines, only in faith! (Gen 17:4; 22:18; Psa 2:8; Isa 42:1-6, Isa 49:6; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:11-14).\

Father Abraham - is the father of all who come to Believe on TLJC.

The lie of some teaching is that only Jews are saved or that God has chosen a certain group of people in eternity past and your free will plays no role in that decision…again as I have pointed out before….. that is a satanic lie!

/Gen 17:4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you (Abraham), and **you will be the father of a multitude of nations.\**

Turn to Ephesians chapter 2 with me.

There is no difference in the PPOG between rich or poor…black or white…Jew or Gentile…that is the game of satanic deception out in the world!

In fact - a true Christian should have no issue with race or blood ties or skin color because we are all from the same family in the natural realm….meaning Adam & Eve and later the sons of Noah….and spiritually anyone who is a Believer is a Royal Family member!

 REPEAT

The truth is Satan is able to keep us confused and divided by things like class warfare…racism and political agendas geared toward division.

Who benefits by our divisions and confusion and anger toward one another?

Think in terms of military analogies…an army unit that is bickering amongst itself is already weakened and in a state of confusion, they won’t fight for each other…the enemy can easily maneuver in and overthrow them right in their own base camp.

/Gal 3:28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one** in Christ Jesus.\

/Eph 2:8 For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is* **the gift of God**;

God in eternity past declared the person and work of JESUS CHRIST satisfied all aspects of HIS justice system. We reap the benefit for a simple one-shot decision directed at CHRIST.\

Our mustard seed of faith had no divine power to drag us across the salvation gate and connect us to CHRIST in a divine union forever. It took the power and ministry of GOD the HS - working in our favor once we recognized Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

/Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand** so that **we would walk in them**.

This is a clear statement that God established everything in eternity past. (*so that we would walk in them.*)\

In the Greek it is a term HE-NAH PERRY-PET-TA-OH…which means that we have to do something…to move forward, to walk… not because God makes us but on our own initiative.

Free will counts for something!

Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands—

Eph 2:12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

/Eph 2:13 But now **in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have **been brought near** by **the blood of Christ**.

The blood of Christ speaks to HIS impeccable life and then death on the cross, which paid for the sins for the entire world.\

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

The symbolism of this was seen when CHRIST gave Himself over to human death, and the veil in the temple was ripped from top to bottom.

Eph 2:14 and 15 puts to rest any nonsense about special groups of people…it is Bel or Unbel … that is it folks!

Eph 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,

HIS work is perfect, therefore – *so that in HIMSELF HE might make* – points to mankind’s free will.

/Eph 2:16 **and might reconcile** (apokatallassō) them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

To bring into perfect harmony and legal status as free from guilt.\

APOKA-TILL-LOSS-SO – speaks to a perfect balance and harmony – a clean slate!

This Greek verb for that phrase- *and might reconcile…*is used differently in verse 16 compared to verse 15 in the original context.

Because of the subjunctive mood in how this is written in the original Greek…it is telling us TLJC has done the work and reconciliation is complete…IF WE do something on our behalf.

Depending on the individual to believe in TLJC!

 REPEAT

We will close today in Matthew chapter 8 RF.

Jew or Gentile it comes down to our own volition…our free will decision to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as our savior.

In Matthew 8 we see the contact our LORD had with a Roman Centurion.

Look at Matthew 8 verse 11;

/Mat 8:11 “I say to you that **many will come from east and west**, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob **in the kingdom of heaven**;\

This is pointing directly at Gentiles being accepted into the kingdom of heaven.

The contact with the Roman centurion at this point gives our Lord an opportunity to tell those around Him the teaching that only Jews are saved is nonsense!

The arrogance of the Sanhedrin gave birth to this attitude among the Jews.

/Mat 8:12 but **the sons of the kingdom will be cast out** into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Jesus was pointing to the Jewish scholars who would reject Him, they knew the O.T. and had no excuses! In fact, they were commissioned with handling the accuracy of the WORD and they corrupted it.\

They were already given all the time and information, they had promises given for their future generations…. they simply needed the faith and yet they refused!

/Jesus having this encounter with a believing Roman soldier would be a lesson of great impact for the Jewish community who put a high value upon the Mosaic Law as means of salvation. Christ always welcomed anyone to come to HIM for healing (salvation/eternal security) \

The Romans could care less about Jewish tradition and OT prophets… yet they are welcomed into the Royal Family.

That had to strike a painful cord with the legalistic Jews!

/Truth when properly presented will convict those ready to hear it and condemn those who continue to reject it. Sending the hearer into either frustration and self-justification or deep contemplation and change.\

You can bet several Jews walked away once the Lord made that statement…now moments earlier they were praising Him for His teaching on the Sermon on the Mount and amazed at the leper who was healed, ready to call Him the messiah.

Now they began to grumble and malign Him.

The truth of what TLJC is pointing out about salvation is not complicated but it is controversial when held up against religion.

/Faith alone in Christ alone does not require deep knowledge of prophecy or rituals from the O.T. scriptures. It is the focus on who and what Jesus Christ is, then believing unequivocally upon Him.\

At this point in history…The Jewish leadership had convinced the people that just by being a Jew and following guidelines in the Torah they could save themselves.

That was never the way to heaven. Even in the Garden the original man and woman had faith in God…they trusted in the Creator for everything and when they didn’t it became the fall of mankind and the OSN was exposed.

/On the surface mankind appears to have many shapes, shades and variation yet there are only two distinctions that truly matter in God’s plan- Bel or Unbel. It is only the Bel who walks in eternal security, everyone else has an everlasting life, that is described in Mat 8:12. Which points to the Unbels of the nation of Isreal.\

Mat 8:12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”