1Thess #132

Stand firm in your doctrine Believer!

Thank you all for the prayers, emails and comments of encouragement you all sent for my wife and I…it was greatly appreciated!

I would like to keep an old friend from New England, Don M. in prayer. He is facing a surgery to remove a tumor and I would like some prayers directed at his medical surgery, please.

Let us pick it back up in 2Thessalonians chapter two – we will read the last sections of this letter to get us back on track.

Remember the Apostle Paul is giving a slight reprimand in this letter which he goes deeper into within the next chapter.

These Bels – not all, but many… had accepted false teaching about the end time events.

They were misled on basic Eschatology they had already been taught.

The Apostle Paul is now reminding and repeating the series of events leading into the 2nd Advent of Christ, which is what they were confused about.

This is why at the end of this chapter, we see the Apostle Paul telling them, to stand firm in the BD they already had learned.

The Apostle Paul touched on the Rapture and then opens up a key sign of the Tribulation period;

2Thes 2:8 Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

[2Th 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/9/s_1118009) *that is,* the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders,

Remember Satan is the originator of the counterfeit – he will make it appear as a TRINITY will be on earth at that point of the mid-way into the 7 years.

The majority will have already been fooled by the Antichrist and the false prophet, early in the beginning stages of the Tribulation.

[2Th 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/10/s_1118010) and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

The work of the modern-day fake prophets and false teachers is already hard at work, it will be an easy jump over to a one world religious system.

[2Th 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/11/s_1118011) For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

This deluding, demonic spirit is very active today in the foundation period.

We have done a deep dive into this, starting at the beginning of this year on this exact subject matter.

[2Th 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/12/s_1118012) in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

2Thes 2: 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.

We looked into the accuracy of Unlimited Atonement and the doctrine of election and pre-destination.

[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 Bels *may obtain* everything GOD has given them in eternity past – super-grace maturity guarantees this! It is a free will, lifestyle choice. Or you just can go into heaven minus certain crowns, blessings and rewards.

There is no equality after salvation – that is a man-made fantasy of the counterfeit picture, of GOD as the big, grandpa in the sky who gives you everything you want, no matter what decisions you make in time.

 REPEAT

We just spent about 6 hours on the lessons related to the highest levels of maturity.

Every true Believer in TLJC will go to heaven – that is a FACT!

Yet there is no equality – that is also a fact.

Human feelings and fantasies about GOD that do not align with scripture are nothing but that…feelings and fantasy.

 REPEAT

/[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.\

[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.

/2Thes 2:15 Therefore, **brethren, stand fast** (*stēkō*) and **hold** (*krateō*) **the traditions** (*paradosis*) which **you were taught**, whether by word or our epistle.

Very powerful command -to remain solid in your stance and take hold in an authoritative fashion. This means be firm on categories and precepts of doctrine.\

STEAK-O, means to dwell in strength, to not just hold ground, but – to become stationary – written in the Pres, Act Ind – keep standing or remining in strength. The active voice, means the Bel makes that decision. The imperative mood speaks to a command.

KRAT-AY-O, same thing – Pres, Act, Ind – this means to seize something or take full control over something.

POR-ODD-ESIS, means precepts, principles and categories of what you already learned.

Often used for laws and commands. This is also a meaning for deeper doctrines!

 REPEAT

Therefore, this means that Apostle Paul wants BELS to consider what he has taught and written up to this point.

It is written from a position of leadership to those under his command – follow what you already have been taught!

It has strong connotations in the way it is written – like a military captain to his troops. REPEAT

/Stand fast because the current distress the persecutionsor tribulations you already experienced are similar to birth pains;

[2Thes 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2th/1/4/s_1117004) As a result, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.\

This is not the Tribulation and we are not at the point of the 2nd Advent – but do not waiver, the spiritual battle is real!

Stay strong and stay in the WORD.

The apostles and certainly Apostle Paul’s teaching was not exactly making these Greek Bels popular.

The truth of Christ put all religious systems and cultural standards on notice.

/The Sanhedrin was trying to put out the fire of the truth of TLJC. The Romans and Greeks had systems of false gods inspired by fallen angels. Not to mention their lascivious lifestyles, which all were knocked back on their heels by the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Now HIS teachers were developing congregations everywhere. TRUTH has a way of really shaking up Satan’s system.\

Now the Apostle Paul is keeping them on track – he knows the attacks are around every corner. Counterfeits and doctrines of demons were everywhere – it is no different today in the year of our LORD 2024.

/Stand fast - because the coming judgment of this world will happen in God’s perfect plan and HIS timing.

Stand fast - because of the strength of the coming deceptions (*all power, signs, and lying wonders*).

Stand fast - because of our glorious destiny is a victorious Rapture at any moment, into the heavens by the arms of our future husband, Jesus Christ! \

Remember this is set in a command form, the responsibility is on the Bel through the power of the SPIRIT - the present tense, speaks to consistency – a lifestyle.

/*Stand fast and hold the traditions*: The command is to take hold and to stand firm with strength, this implies a location. It also means to KEEP dwelling in this stance and have a firm grip. The location is inside the plan of GOD (2 power options), Christians must keep standing in God’s Word! Once you receive and understand the authoritative word taught by men like Paul – then passed on to ordained men of GOD, STAND IN THAT! \

Do not get confused by the word Traditions: The Bible recognizes that traditions can be a dangerous feature of religious systems or the traditions of man.

What the Apostle Paul has in mind, is the traditions handed down to the apostles by The Lord Jesus Christ. The traditions are doctrines in the NT teachings.

 REPEAT

This is why certain subtleties of the original language matters so much.

*/“The word paradosis, which we render tradition, signifies anything delivered in the way of teaching; and here most obviously means the doctrines delivered by the apostle to the Thessalonians; whether in his preaching, private conversation, or by these letters.”*

 *British Theologian, Adam Clarke\*

Adam Clarke was considered a dull student as a young man – a dunce by all historic definitions.

He later learned 20 languages and became one of the most respected Bible scholars in England by the early 1800’s.

He was a staunch student of the teaching of the famous, theologian John Wesley, who is credited with the original Methodist church of England.

By the way, the original concepts of John Wesley’s teaching were very accurate.

Turn in your Bibles to Ephesians chapter four RF.

Other than a few doctrinal points, I think he was an excellent theologian. Unfortunately, there have been spin-offs and additions to his original studies.

/It is only the anchor of God’s Word, accurately handled, that can enable us to stand fast under the pressure of deceptions and tribulations designed by Satan. The Bel who never grows toward maturity is lacking in stability, therefore they are often easy prey for false teaching and doctrinal distractions, that pull them away from truth they may have already heard.\

The Apostle Paul opens this section of the epistle with a reminder about unity.

More specifically unity in fellowship by means of GOD the HS.

This is where he makes a definitive statement, that there is one body, one spirit and one baptism.

Giving the reference to the filling power of GOD the HS and the doctrine of the indwelling of the TRINITY.

Paul speaks upon the three days of CHRIST in the tomb – whereby the humanity of Christ was in the tomb but the deity of Christ descended.

/Eph 4:9 Now this *expression,* “**He ascended**,” what does it mean except that **He also had descended** into the lower parts of the earth?

The deity of Christ, both was ascended into heaven and descended also into the depths of the earth.\

It is believed the human body remained in the tomb. While the deity of CHRIST proclaimed the victory.

Eph 4:10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.

This is often overlooked – but at the victory march of CHRIST, it tells us a new age was upon us, because this is when TLJC assigned new leadership roles for the Church Age;

[/Eph 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/11/s_1101011) And **He gave some** as **apostles**, some *as* **prophets**, some as **evangelists,** some *as* **pastors and teachers**,

The first two commissions were temporary for the establishment of the church and the completed cannon of scripture.\

Evangelists were going to be set into place for the CA.

Pastor-teacher is actually considered a singular title, this also would be set up for the CA as permanent – while apostles and prophets were to operate until the church was established and the completed canon of scripture was fulfilled.

This actually tells us a new dispensation was upon the world – TLJC, HIMSELF, established a precedent for these titles – not seen in the OT.

[Eph 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/12/s_1101012) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ;

All of these offices work together for the building of the body of CHRIST.

The apostles were the leaders and set the standard and protocols for the church.

The handful of legitimate, prophets worked under the authority of the apostles, to assist in the completed canon of scripture.

This was all designed to give the Evangelists and Pastors their format of accuracy. Who took the seat of leadership, fully shortly after 90 A.D.

[/Eph 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/13/s_1101013) **until we all attain to the unity of the faith**, and of **the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man,** to the measure of the stature which belongs **to the fullness of Christ.\**

HE must increase, I must decrease.

Super-grace maturity is the full measure, it is a set goal for all Bels - yet most never attain it.

/Eph 4:14 As a result, **we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine,** by the **trickery of people**, by **craftiness in deceitful scheming**;

This is more often than not, the description of most Christian churches and Believers.\

There are many scriptures pointing to a calling for teachers and church leaders.

Yet they have to be true men of GOD!

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *that is,* Christ,

[/Eph 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/4/16/s_1101016) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, **according to the proper working of each individual part,** causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

The reason for a large portion of the confusion, division and chaos in the world is because – AS GOES THE CHURCH, SO GOES THE NATION.\

Many of the true body of Christ, do not fulfill their roles of promoting or evangelizing and supporting the truth of BD.

Most use their time, talent and treasure to promote and support the cosmic system and the counterfeit agendas.