2Thess #123

The gospel was given to the Church Age Believers as part of our calling.

Open back up today in 2Thess 2.

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 truth referenced in the NT teaching of TLJC and the apostles, points us to BD, the mind of Christ – it is definitive, singular and eternal.

We are called to embrace the gospel and truth of scripture, then to move forward in this dispensation as ambassadors for Christ.

Human I.Q. and social status, does not matter – as a Believer this is your call to duty.

**/**[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.\

[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.

Remember something as we depart verse 13 – sanctification is a powerful doctrine. It is a supernatural cleansing for the new Believer.

This may describe the depth of that doctrine, better than anything many teachers have spoken about on the subject matter;

*/“Had it been possible for you to have had salvation without sanctification, it would have been a curse to you instead of a blessing. If such a thing were possible, I cannot conceive of a more lamentable condition than for a man to, have the happiness of salvation without the holiness of it; happily, it is not possible. If you could be saved from the consequences of sin, but not from the sin itself, and its power and pollution, it would be no blessing to you.”*

*Charles Spurgeon* \

Most Bels lose sight of all that happened not just at the Cross of Christ, but the death, burial, resurrection, then ascension and session.

This was a set of supernatural events, that sealed so many things and legally vindicated everything in the heavenly courtroom.

Now in verse 14 we need to really tear into this going forward.

/[2Th 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2th/2/14/s_1118014) *It was for this He called (kaleō) you through our gospel,*

*“He called”* — the aorist active indicative of this Greek verb, points us to the Divine Decree. God knew you would respond to Common Grace at a certain point.\

KAL-AY-O, comes from a root word, often used for a strong calling or a command, to be called out or recognized by name.

The aorist tense points us to eternity past, it was already done.

God knew that you were going to believe and He provided everything for your life.

The active voice, tells us - God the Father produces the decrees in eternity past. His omniscience knew what we would need and what the situation would be that you answer that calling, that invitation.

REPEAT

The indicative mood is a dogmatic statement of fact, it is like a legal proclamation – it has happened or it will happen. In this case, it points backward to the action of the verb - GOD already did it in eternity past.

The Apostle Paul states very confidently - “by our gospel” or “through our gospel.” It is called “our gospel” because this is addressed to Believers and it is our personal possession after salvation.

You are forever in union with Christ.

/The secondary meaning of this is showing us, the CA dispensation is the time of the Gentiles promoting the word of God. We are responsible for the word, just as the dispensation of Isreal was until it was interrupted. The lead up into CA, began with the call for the lost sheep of Isreal to come into faith alone in Christ alone. After the death of the apostles, it became a predominately Gentile age.\

Jump over to 1Corinthians chapter one.

This is our gospel and our time now RF.

There are messianic Jews in the CA, but it is far and few between them.

He called you by our gospel: The call for this salvation comes through the gospel, the Gospel Paul preached (we preach Christ crucified, 1 Corinthians 1:23), and the Gospel that will enable us to obtain the glory of Jesus.

Make sure you understand the right gospel.

Make sure you preach the right gospel.

In 1Corinthians chapter one, we see the call for unity. Because division had arisen among many of the Greek people involved in this growing congregation.

There were petty arguments and struggles for prominence, as well as sexual immortality speckled amongst certain members.

Corinth was a gem in the ancient world. A mecca of industry, wealth and prestige. Like L.A. or NYC today… well over 600,000 people lived there during this time period.

A large majority were very well off.

There were disagreements about who would be in leadership, or who was more spiritually gifted than another.

It was a congregation ripe with pettiness and pride.

Also, arguing who was baptized by an apostle, or baptized by another teacher or church leader.

/1Cor 1:17 For **Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,** not with cleverness of speech, **so that the cross of Christ would not be made of no effect.**

Many were more concerned about baptism and spiritual gifts then the accuracy of the WORD.\

Not much has changed in the year of our LORD 2024.

They were concerned with who would be recognized and elevated in that church.

The Apostle Paul makes a very clear statement that he was not going forward doing any more baptisms in water.

Just as he would make clear some spiritual gifts would be done away with.

1Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

This is true today - as true or more so, than it was 2,000 years ago!

You better get the gospel right, that is the opening for all other truth - and the only avenue for salvation.

Why do you think Satan created religion and other spiritual movements – all distractions and counterfeits.

/[1Co 1:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/19/s_1063019) For it is written: **“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE**,AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE WHO HAVE UNDERSTANDING, I WILL CONFOUND.”\

God’s ways and man’s ways - two different ways…God’s thoughts and man’s thoughts, are not on the same playing field.

The Greek culture at this historic point, prided themselves on being very intelligent and very gifted people.

God is not concerned with the depth of someone’s cosmic knowledge…no matter how intelligent they appear to mankind.

The Apostle Paul uses several OT scriptures in this one verse.

/Job 5:12 “**He frustrates the schemes of the shrewd,** So that their hands cannot attain success. 13 “**He captures the wise by their own cleverness**, and the advice of the cunning is quickly thwarted.

(Isa 19:3-11, Isa 29:14, Jer 8:9) \

That is how GOD views human viewpoint and cosmic knowledge.

The Apostle Paul is dropping deep knowledge on these intellects and snobs – using BD, which ridicules their reliance on human intellect.

[1Co 1:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/20/s_1063020) Where is the wise person? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has God not made foolish the wisdom of the world?

These next 7 or 8 scriptures are among some of my favorite and have kept me focused and strong over the years.

/[1Co 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/21/s_1063021) **For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God,** God was pleased through the foolishness of the message preached **to save those who believe**.

The simplicity of the gospel – faith alone in Christ alone, confuses and frustrates human effort and cosmic system logic.\

The world loves to elevate the power and wisdom of the creature while ignoring the CREATOR.

The Apostle Paul is really trying to wake them up and in some cases, humble some of them because of their level of prestige or intellect.

/Isa 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.\

[1Co 1:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/22/s_1063022) For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

Greek philosophy was the intellectual standard of the day, even within the Roman Empire.

The Apostle Paul is addressing the wisdom of the Greek scholars and the Judaizers, who were now infiltrating Greek culture in hopes to squash the early formation of the church.

Today we have those who put all their hopes on higher intellect, experts and college professors. Also, those even within Christianity, that rely on emotional nonsense like prophecy, signs and wonders.

REPEAT

/[1Co 1:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/23/s_1063023) but **we preach Christ crucified,** to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,

It was decided in eternity past, through the justice system of GOD, that faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ was the only standard accepted for salvation. HIS person and HIS work satisfied the Justice of GOD.\

Not human I.Q. – not working from our flesh, no human merit, no works are enough to bring us into eternal salvation.

The RIGHTEOUSNESS of TLJC is the only purity recognized as the key to entrance into heaven, nothing else.

You are either in union with CHRIST and recognized by HIS righteousness - or you will stand on your own merits and righteousness at the Great White Throne Judgment.

REPEAT

[1Co 1:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/24/s_1063024) but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Those who accepted the invitation from the Common Grace of God the HS and truly accepted TLJC, those are the elected.

Only God knows from eternity past who would become positive and when they would accept Christ.

TLJC died for all mankind – the invitation and HIS work was for EVERYONE – Unlimited Atonement.

/[1Co 1:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/25/s_1063025) **For the foolishness of God is wiser than mankind**, and the weakness of God is stronger than mankind.

God is never foolish or weak – this is divine sarcasm by Paul. Because many consider God’s plan foolishness, or confusing, pointing backward to verse 23.\

God’s plan for salvation does not make sense to the natural minded man.

God’s plan nullifies good works, it rejects religious nonsense and legalism.

God’s plan ignores human merits or human righteousness.

God’s plan does not account for human intellect – it is all Christ dependent.

[1Co 1:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/26/s_1063026) For consider your calling, brothers *and sisters,* that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

All of the people today, or in ancient Greek culture back then…within a popular city like Corinth – look to human knowledge, human wisdom, human nobility and human strength as something to behold.

GOD looks upon it as wood, hay and stubble to burned up in HIS presence.

[1Co 1:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/27/s_1063027) but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

When you really do a deep study on the men and woman, GOD used in the Bible, you find they were all flawed creatures just like you and I.

Most of them would never be picked by the crowd to be leaders or used in God’s plan.

[1Co 1:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/28/s_1063028) and the insignificant things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

/God often uses the weak or foolish, failed or despised for HIS purpose and plan. Those rejected or insignificant by human standards, in the end it always nullifies the strength and intellect of mankind. It always frustrates and stalls the plans of Satan. Because it is GOD who is working within fallen man. When fallen man allows GOD to do the work, victory is assured.\

[1Co 1:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/29/s_1063029) so that no human may boast before God.

[1Co 1:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/30/s_1063030) But *it is* due to Him *that* you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

God does all the work and we reap the benefits.

The plan of GOD is always HIS work, HIS plan - His precious SON – HIS divine power. We reap the benefit when we humble ourselves to HIS will and HIS power & HIS plan.

/[1Co 1:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/1/31/s_1063031) so that, just as it is written: “LET THE ONE WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

This again is the Apostle Paul proclaiming truth from the past that always remains the same in every age!\

/1Chr 16:10 Boast in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be joyful.

Psa 105:3 Boast in His holy name; May the heart of those who seek the LORD be joyful. (Isa 45:25, Jer 4:2) \

The Apostle Paul is using the truth and intellect of BD – the mind of Christ, to do the talking for him.

/Jer 9:23 This is what the LORD says: “Let no wise man boast of his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast of his might, nor a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let the one who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises mercy, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.\