

TO OBTAIN THE GLORY OF CHRIST

Wednesday Gathering; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; Week of Sunday, July 25, 2021; Richie Pendred

Sermon Theme: God's people have been called through the gospel to obtain the glory of Jesus. This hope of future glory is the anchor for every Christian to actively stand firm with unceasing comfort as we await His return!

I. Context of Obtaining Glory – Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

- A. According to verses 3-4, what is the context with which Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica? How would you describe it in your own words?

- B. In verses 9 and 10, what is the contrast that Paul makes between the lost and the saved?

- C. Are you prone to apologize for trials that God brings into the life of others? Why might we be tempted to apologize for trials rather than contemplate their importance for spiritual growth?

II. Content of Obtaining Glory – Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

- A. What do you think it means to obtain the glory of the Lord? Why do you think this truth would be so encouraging to Paul's audience? How is this truth an encouragement to you as you walk through the everyday trials of life and especially the deepest levels of suffering and sorrow?

- B. What does it mean for God to choose them as "*the first fruits to be saved*"? How is Deut 7:6-8 helpful in understanding God's electing love toward His people? Do you have any theological tension with the doctrine of election? If so, what is it about the doctrine that is so difficult?

- C. How does 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 display the harmony of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility? What do you think it looks like to actively stand firm in the gospel. What are some things that you can do on a daily basis to delight yourself in the Lord Jesus Christ?

- D. Read Romans 8:18-30. How does Paul describe this current life? How does Paul describe future glory? What makes future glory so wonderful for the Christian?

III. Application of Obtaining Glory – Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 Again

- A. According to verse 15, What is the charge for believers in light of the hope of future glory? What does it look like to "*stand firm*" in the midst of persecution and frustrations in your life? How can we reorient our hearts and our thinking as we work for God's good pleasure?

- B. Are you joyfully anticipating the future coming of Christ when believers will all be glorified in His likeness? If not, why not? How can you make that a greater focus in your life?