

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
August 25, 2021
2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
Believe It Or Not

Believe it or not, crayfish have teeth in their stomachs and their livers are located in their heads. Believe it or not, in Central Washington it was once against the law for a man to shave between July 26 and August 12. Believe it or not, in 1643, residents of Kissengen, Germany defended themselves by hurling beehives at their attackers. Believe it or not Alan McKirdy of Great Britain built a baby grand piano that measured 5-1/4" long and it plays. Believe it or not, baby Koala bears, when they misbehave, are often spanked on their bottoms by their moms. Thanks to Mr Ripley who documented his proof so as not to mislead the public, but it is still up to the individual to accept or reject these reports. Free will even gives us the right to be wrong if we wish.

This week we research the choice made by the people of God. We've all been given choice in life. Most of us had to surrender that to our parents during our early years but soon enough it was up to us. What career should I pursue? Should I get stupid with my friends? Should I get married? Where should I live? On and on it goes. We learn from today's passage that we are all also faced with what will be the greatest choice in life. Let's Dig in.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 KJVS

[13]But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:... God chose us in the beginning. We call this predestination. Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8:29-30, John 15:16. How did He choose? Through the sanctification of His Spirit... The Greek hagioσmos means purification. Think of it this way; Mom chooses you to go to church on Sunday. How? By giving your dirty little body a bath and dressing you in your clean Sunday-go-to-meetin clothes. She knew you were going to church and was preparing you to make that choice on your own later in life. Proverbs 22:6. God bless us all! We did choose! Were we forced? No. Having seen the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10) He laid out our path to draw us in. John 6:44, 12:32. We saw in the last lesson how God gives a path to rebellion for those intent on rejecting Him. But the choice to believe is always, fully ours. Jeremiah 29:13, Hebrews 11:6, Acts 16:31, John 3:16. God, in His perfect foreknowledge, saw us through eternity, exercising our free will. His offer to us? "Believe it or not"

[14] Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ... How did He call us? By sharing with us the powerful story of His Son, Jesus, Who willfully endured the cross solely for our salvation. Hebrews 12:2. By the way, the joy spoken of here is of and in US!

[15] Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold to the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle...What's our next move? It is to not move at all but to stand fast! That is stēkō; to be stationary. Our choice for Christ is a one time decision followed by a planting of the feet. We step into Christ, then stand in Him. We are weak so we drift and wander but Praise His Name! He does the holding. John 10:28-29 and even seals us in. Ephesians 1:13

[16] Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, [17] Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work...Here lies our greatest inner strength. Comfort; parakaleō; to call near. (A reference to the Holy Spirit) and stablish; stērizō; to set fast or to turn resolutely. We are called near to God and are set fast in Him, by Him. Once again not by our own power but Paul calls down the blessing of the unity of God for us to be infused with His Word and to be turned resolutely to His work.

All this sounds incredible but "Believe it or not" its all true and documented for us throughout the Word of God. This and so much more! Ephesians 3:16-21. We have a free will choice and will be held responsible for that choice. John 3:18-19.