

Series: The Gathering Storm
Message: A Sure Foundation
Text: 2 Thess. 2:13-16 & 3 (AM 2/26/17)

God wired us to hunger for *assurance*. Biblical community is God's ordained place to receive the affirmation we need for our Journey of faith. Paul's second letter to the Church at Thessalonica was written to assure the Fellowship concerning the imminent Day of the Lord. Having assured the congregation, they had not missed the Rapture or Second Coming, Paul instructs and encourages them *to Stand* in the midst of *the Gathering Storm* in Chapter 2. Be ready by not being *deceived, forgetful, ignorant, unbelieving, or weak*. Today, we'll focus on *three dynamic truths* to help us Stand in our persecution as the Day of the Lord draws near.

I. Be *Glorying* in your Salvation (13-14)

Revel in your glorious and eternal Redemption

- He *chose* you as His Son (13) "*God from the beginning chose you...*"
- He *called* you by His Spirit (13b) "*Through sanctification by the Spirit*"
- He *confirmed* your Security (14) "*Called...for obtaining of the glory*"

II. Be *Growing* in your Sanctification (13b)

Rejoice in your great and effective Transformation

- *Dwelt* by the Spirit (13) "*By the Spirit...*"
- *Developed* thru your Story (13) "*For Salvation through sanctification*"
- *Disciplined* to be Separate (13; 3:3) "*Belief in the truth...*"

III. Be *Grounded* in your Situation (15-16)

Recount His guidance on your essential Journey

- *Stand* on the Scripture (15) "*Stand fast and hold to the traditions...*"
- *Stand* in your Service (16) "*Establish you in every good word & work*"
- *Stand* in His Sanctuary (3:3) "*(He'll)...guard you from the evil one*"

Application to life: In an age of *Political Correctness*, it seems that those who espouse God's Truth are *bending* like a reed in the wind of public opinion. Paul reminds us that the Church must stand in His Truth against the prevailing winds of public opinion. The Apostle instructs us how to Stand in Christ. God will *enlighten and empower* His Children to stand with *confidence* when others falter. Here we find our *purpose* and learn to live in His *peace*.