

v13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. v14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. v15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. v16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, v17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN YOU BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.

1. **THE LOVE OF GOD - v13** *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.*

Our SALVATION began in the HEART OF GOD.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,[6] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

*1 John 4:7-12 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. v8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. v9 **This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. v10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. v11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. v12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.***

2. **THE CHOICE OF GOD - v13** *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.*

We were PREDESTINED to be called by God.

*Romans 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who **have been called according to his purpose. v29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. v30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.***

Does that mean some are predestined to go to hell?

*Ephesians 1:11-12 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, v12 **in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.***

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN YOU BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.

3. **THE SPIRIT OF GOD - v13** *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved **through the sanctifying work of the Spirit** and through belief in the truth.*

Jesus said this about the work of the Spirit

John 16:8-11 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: v9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; v10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; v11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

4. **THE TRUTH OF GOD - v13** *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit **and through belief in the truth.***

Jesus SAID

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. v32 Then **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

5. **THE PEOPLE OF GOD - v14** *He called you to this **through our gospel**, that you **might share** in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

People are saved through other people preaching.

Romans 10:13-15 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." v14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? **And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?** v15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

6. **THE GLORY OF GOD - v14** *He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in **the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

The GLORY OF JESUS is his victory over death on the CROSS.

1 Peter 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. v13 **But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.**

Hebrews 2:9-10 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. v10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN YOU BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.

7. **THE WORD OF GOD - v15** *So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, **whether by word of mouth or by letter.***

Jesus lived and taught this truth.

Matthew 4:3-4 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." v4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

8. **THE ASSURANCE OF GOD - v16** *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and **by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,***

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED.

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. v12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. v13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

9. **THE SANTIFICATION OF GOD - v17** *encourage your hearts and **strengthen you in every good deed and word.***

Compare EVOLUTION vs CREATION.

*Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God every time I remember you. v4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy v5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, v6 being confident of this, **that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.***