

Jonestown Bible Church

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“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

April 15, 2021

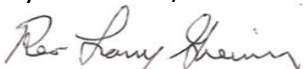
My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The church is under attack from all sides and the wickedness of our culture grows greater. Satan will not stop trying to extinguish the church until Jesus casts him into eternal hell on that future day. We are being told to change our view on morality and what God calls sin. Our culture is changing the definitions of Scripture. We must not succumb to the pressure and persecution of the enemy and join in the lies which now permeate our culture.

The new movement is called, *Cancel Culture*, which is to remove all that was sacred before God and replace it with a new culture which is the doctrine of demons. Dear believer, the Apostle Paul reminded the church of Thessalonica in his second letter of some encouraging truths and an exhortation to act. In 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Paul reminds the persecuted believers that they are first, beloved by the Lord. Second, they were chosen by God from the beginning to be sanctified by the Spirit through faith in the truth (The Gospel). Then Paul makes an astounding statement. He says in verse 14, *For this He called you through the gospel, that you may GAIN THE GLORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.*

Take hold of this marvelous truth, dear brothers and sisters, in these last days and then let us carry out the exhortation made by Paul in verse 14: *Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.* God tells us throughout His Word to *stand firm*. As God led Paul to write to the believers in Thessalonica, God is also strongly encouraging us with the same truth that we must *stand firm*. Through Paul, God also tells us to hold tight to *the traditions which they were taught*. This does not refer to man-made traditions but the Truth of God's Word, either written or spoken. God and His Word are our foundation for each day of our lives, and we must hold fast to Him and His Word. God and His Word gives us everything we need to overcome and *stand firm* in the storms of life and the attacks of the enemy and his schemes. Another Scripture that ties directly to 2 Thessalonians 2:15 is Ephesians 6:11, *Put on the full armor of God that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.* God's Word is our Good News that we live by, walk in, stand firm in, and share with others. Let each one of us stand firm in the truth each day until Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

By His Grace,



Pastor Larry