

Small Group Discussion Guide — Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

- In what ways are you prone to anxiety and worry? Is there anything right now that has you unsettled? How do we battle against anxiety?
- What is going on in the Thessalonian church that is causing them to be “shaken in mind and alarmed”? (2:1-2) What is their situation in chapter 1? What is the situation in chapter 2?
- What is Paul’s cure or remedy for the “shakiness” they are experiencing? How are vs. 13-17 meant to provide them comfort and hope? In what ways do you find them comforting?
- Did it surprise you that we come this week to the very first commands in this letter? What does this tell you about the Scripture, and about the nature of the Christian life, that Paul tells them what God has already done (vs. 13-14) before he tells them what they are to do (vs. 15)?
- What four truths does Paul give them to stand firm on and hold to? How are these meant to provide assurance and comfort to us?
- Joshua said, “the doctrine of election isn’t mean to be a doctrine that divides, but a doctrine that provides security and stability for us.” How is this true?
- What does it mean to be saved “through sanctification by the Spirit?” How is sanctification a necessary evidence for our final salvation? (see Heb 12:14; James 2:14) Why is it important that we not confuse the believer’s justification with sanctification?
- As in Romans 8:30, how do we see God’s “golden chain” of salvation here? How is these two passages parallel?
- Can you describe what the “effectual call” of God though the gospel was like in your own conversion when you were saved?
- How does Paul’s prayer here in vs. 16-17 help us in what kinds of things we should pray for ourselves and for one another? What are his requests?
- What difference should knowing the future (vs. 6, vs. 8, vs. 14) make in the way we think about the difficulties and struggles that the church faces?