



Discussion Questions Set #1

““But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand

firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

In our passage, we are urged to “stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we (Paul, Silas and Timothy) passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter”.

1. Why is it important that we have teaching to stand firm upon or hold fast to in times of spiritual challenge?
2. Discuss the importance of such teaching in the life of the follower of Jesus. Why is a high view of Scripture important to one’s ability to persevere?
3. What challenges might such a high view of Scripture face in our world today? What cultural “givens” (ie. the erosion of the idea of absolute truth) work against this teaching?
4. Why might one’s standing firm and holding fast to these ancient teachings seem such an offensive reality to the culture around us?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God .. the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:14-16)

“At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. (Romans 6:6-8)

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified”. (Romans 8:29-30)

“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

“He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”. (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

In sermon, we discussed the five stranded rope of the apostles’ teaching as a means to providing us stability during difficult times.

1. Discuss how each of the following “strands” affects one’s ability to persevere through difficulty.
 - a. Christian community/family
 - b. God’s love for us
 - c. God’s choice of us for salvation
 - d. God’s call to share in Christ’s glory
 - e. Our sanctification by the Spirit
2. Why is it important to our ability to persevere that we understand that though these “strands” form a spiritual rope to which we might grip, the key matter actually involves our trust in Jesus? What might happen if we trust in teachings, but not in Jesus as an anchor?
3. How does a knowledge of Christ’s voice and Christ’s presence influence our ability to persevere? Why might this be the case?