

*2 Thessalonians 2:13-16*  
*So Then, Stand Firm*

“SEVEN POINTS IN FAVOR OF THE PRETRIBULATIONAL  
RAPTURE IN THE THESSALONIAN EPISTLES

1. The coming of the Lord is presented as an imminent event, that is, one that could occur at any moment (1 /Thess. 1:10). No preceding signs for the rapture are given. This is consistent with the pretribulational rapture position and inconsistent with the other views.
2. Believers will be delivered from the coming wrath (1 Thess. 1:10). Believers are not appointed to wrath (1 Thess. 5:9). The wrath in this context is the fierce judgment on an evil world at the day of the Lord.
3. The order of events in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (the rapture) and 5:1-9 (the day of the Lord) point toward a pretribulational rapture. The rapture comes chronologically before the day of the Lord or tribulation period.
4. The rapture is to bring comfort and encouragement (1 Thess. 4:18). If the pretribulational position is not true, the Thessalonians should have been rejoicing that their loved ones were deceased rather than weeping, because by dying they would be spared the horrors of the tribulation. Also, what comfort would there be in the rapture if believers must endure one-half, three-fourths or all of the great tribulation before it occurs?
5. Believers are specifically omitted from the day of the Lord in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6. Paul does not include himself and the believers in this event the way he does with the rapture 4:13-18.
6. The agitation of the believers about supposedly being in the day of the Lord indicates that they did not expect to be in it (2 Thess. 2:2). If they had been taught by Paul that they would be in the day of the Lord, they would not be upset to hear they had entered it. It would have been what they expected.
7. The restrainer, who is the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit through the church, must be removed for the man of sin to be revealed and the man of sin must be revealed before the tribulation can begin. This means the church must be taken out before the tribulation (2 Thess. 2:5-7).” Walvoord/Hitchcock

**2:13-15** The truth of being spared from God’s wrath because of the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit moved Paul to command all believers to stand firm in the faith and in the truth of God’s Word.

**Steko (stay-ko) stand firm/fast** Present tense of the verse indicates that we are to continually stand firm, it is to be an ongoing stance.

**Krateō** *take hold of, take, seize, to keep carefully and faithfully* Present tense

- Paul gives us several reasons why we are commanded to stand firm in the truth of God's Word.
1. (Vs. 13) We are loved by the Lord. The perfect tense of the verb **agapao** means that His love for each of us individually and as a church *has been completed in the past, once for all, not needing to be repeated (Strong's Concordance)*. In other words, His love for us is ongoing and has always been ongoing from the second we were saved.
  2. (Vs. 13) From the beginning we were chosen to be saved (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; Eph. 1:4-6) Grk. **hairo**, *chosen, taken for oneself, choice made by God (Strong's)*
  3. (Vs. 13) We were saved through the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, i.e., made holy and blameless in God's sight (Eph. 1:4; Heb. 10:8-10).

**hagiasmos**, *holiness, separation unto God, the state predetermined by God for believers, into which in grace He calls them, and in which they begin their Christian course and so pursue it. Hence, they are called "saints" (hagioi). Vine's Expository Dictionary*

4. (Vs. 13) We were saved through belief in the truth of the gospel (Jn. 1:12).
5. (Vs. 14) He called us through the truth of the gospel. It was a personal invitation to come to know Him so that we might share in His glory (Rom. 8:28-30).

(Vs. 15) *The command to stand fast implies a location, and this tells us what Christians must stand fast upon. They must keep standing on God's Word, delivered both by the authoritative word of the apostles (by word) and the letters of the apostles (our epistle). Guzik*

**2:16-17** Paul prays that Jesus Christ Himself (emphatic in the Greek) and God the Father encourage and strengthen them.

- It would be impossible to stand firm in every good deed and word without the love, grace, encouragement, hope and strength God provides.

**2 Peter 1:3** *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,*

- Believers who do not stand firm because of fear, anxiety, hopelessness or compromise, fail to understand that it is the Holy Spirit's desire to enable them to do so. It always boils down the level of faith one chooses to live by.

**Prov. 3:5-6** *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.*