

He Will Hold Me Fast; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3

- I. Delivered
 - a. We all have a desire to be delivered from whatever trial we are in the middle of
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2 (ESV) 1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.
- II. “Delivered” is the same word used for salvation.
 - i. Colossians 1:13 (ESV) 13 He has **delivered** us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
 - ii. Romans 11:25–27 (ESV) 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The **Deliverer** will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; 27 “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”
 - iii. It is also translated as "rescue"
 - b. We have been rescued by the Savior.
 - c. Paul is praying for rescue from wicked and evil men, “for not all have faith”.
 - i. How many times have we been caught up in the wrong thing with the wrong people?
 - ii. Most (if not all) of us really cannot relate to the persecution Paul endured.
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 11:23–27 (ESV) 23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
 - iv. It is safe to say Paul was rescued (delivered) many times.
 - v. While we don’t find ourselves in such physical distress¹ we are attacked and tempted.
- III. Establish
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV) ³ But the Lord is faithful. He will **establish** you and guard you against the evil one.
 - b. Establish: to fix firmly in a place, *set up, establish, support*, to cause to be inwardly firm or committed, *confirm, establish, strengthen* ¹
 - i. To support someone, to help them be or remain committed to Jesus

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 945.

- ii. This is something we are all encouraged to do Luke 22:32 (ESV) ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, **strengthen** your brothers.”
 - iii. The world cares nothing about your faithfulness; other people will do their best to trip you up, to tempt you, and then laugh at your failure
 - iv. Hebrews 10:23–25 (ESV) ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
 - 1. Coffman (in his commentary) focuses on church attendance (“not neglecting to meet together”)
 - 2. In that focus, we see the idea of ‘establish’
 - 3. Pliny the Younger was a lawyer, author, and magistrate of Rome
 - 4. He wrote hundreds of letters (we have 247 of them)
 - 5. He wrote a report to Emperor Trajan about Christian assemblies
 - 6. “They attended the regular worship services in spite of every hindrance. Legal meetings on a publicly recognized day of rest, as in these days, were impossible. Christians met in the darkness of pre-dawn assemblies; and no impediment whatever was allowed to interfere. As Pliny said, "On an appointed day they had been accustomed to meet before daybreak” ²
 - 7. The early Christians understood that they needed each other to withstand the attack on their faith
 - c. It is through the very promise of salvation that we find our strength and are able to strengthen others
 - i. We often comfort others by helping them to remember their salvation (or the salvation of a loved one who has passed)
 - ii. We turn to God’s word to find comfort and strength
 - d. God establishes, strengthens, confirms, supports us through His word and His church
 - e. A faithful God is more than a match for unfaithful men!
- IV. Guard
- a. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV) ³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and **guard** you against the evil one.
 - b. Guard: to protect by taking careful measures, *guard, protect* ³
 - i. God’s idea of protection
 - ii. 2 Peter 2:5 (ESV) ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but **preserved** Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

² Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Hebrews 10". "Coffman Commentaries on the Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/hebrews-10.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

³ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1068.

- iii. 1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - iv. Our faith (The Faith) is what protects us and prepares us for salvation
 - c. Most of my military career was guarding and protecting military assets
 - i. I remained awake, vigilant, ready to detect anything wrong or out of the ordinary to ensure the resource was not damaged or compromised
 - ii. My whole job was to make sure nothing happened... to the resource (property and personnel) I was guarding
 - 1. I will take charge of my post and protect personnel and property for which I am responsible until properly relieved.
 - 2. I will report all violations of orders I am entrusted to enforce and contact my superior in any case not covered by instructions.
 - 3. I will sound the alarm in case of disorder or emergency.
 - d. God has given us His written word (careful measures) to show us The Faith which (when properly applied) protects us and provides our salvation (imperishable, undefiled, and unfading)
- V. He Will Hold Me Fast
- a. He strengthens me (us) through His Word and His church
 - b. He protects me (us) through His Word and His church
 - c. A faithful God is more than a match for unfaithful men!