



# PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS

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*3 - Their Reception of the Gospel  
and Paul's Concern (2:13-3:13)*

# THEIR RECEPTION OF THE GOSPEL (2:13-16)

- They received the word as intended [13]
  - *Not as the words of men*
  - *But as the word of God (c.f. 1 Cor. 2:1-5)*
  - When received in faith with an honest heart, it profits (Lk. 8:15; Heb. 4:1-2)
- God's word is living and powerful - effectively works (Heb. 4:12-13)
  - *They had turned to God from idols (1:9-10)*

# THEIR RECEPTION OF THE GOSPEL (2:13-16)

- The Thessalonians shared in the sufferings of their brethren in Judea. [14] (Ac. 8:1; 12:1-4; 1 Thess. 1:6-7)
  - *Saul had formerly persecuted Christians out of Jerusalem and went after them in Judea.*
- They suffered at the hand of their own countrymen (Ac. 17:1-9)

# THEIR RECEPTION OF THE GOSPEL (2:13-16)

- Those who were persecuting the church [**15-16**]:
  - *Had Killed Jesus (Ac. 2:23, 36; 3:14-15; 4:10; 5:30; Matt. 27:22-26)*
  - *Had killed the prophets (Matt. 5:12; 23:27-39; Ac. 7:51-60)*
  - *Had persecuted Paul and others*
    - *DID NOT PLEASE GOD*
    - *Tried to prevent the Gentiles from hearing the gospel (c.f. Ac. 13:42-45)*
- Wrath has come upon them - God would judge these enemies (2 Thess. 1:3-10)

# PAUL'S DESIRE TO SEE THEM (2:17-20)

- Paul taken away in person (physically), but not in spirit (heart) [**17a**] (Ac. 17:5, 10, 13-15)
- Strong desire to see them again [**17b-18**]
- Similar statements made to other Christians (1 Cor. 3:5)
- His concern was for their salvation [**19-20**]
  - *To find them in the presence of the Lord at His coming.*

# PAUL'S CONCERN (3:1-8)

- Sent Timothy to them [1-3]
  - *To strengthen (establish) them*
  - *To encourage them*
  - *To prevent them from being disturbed (shaken) by afflictions*
- Paul regularly sent Timothy to minister to saints he couldn't be with (Ac. 19:21-22; 1 Cor. 4:15-17; 16:10-11; Phil. 2:19-23)

# PAUL'S CONCERN (3:1-8)

- The tribulation should have come as no surprise to them [4] – or to us (2 Tim. 3:10-12)
- Wanted to know their status [5]
- Lest he had labored in vain (Gal. 2:2; 4:11; Phil. 2:16)
- Timothy reported they stood strong in the faith and in love [6] (c.f. 1:2-3)
- They were comforted to hear of their faith [7-8] (2 Jn. 4; 3 Jn. 1:2-4)

# PAUL'S PRAYER (3:9-13)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,  
<sup>10</sup> as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; <sup>13</sup> so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

