

*Paul's Letter to the  
Church at Thessalonica*

# I Thessalonians





# 1 Thess. 2:13-16

1. Reception of the Word (13)
2. Suffering for the Word (14)
3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- Thanks to God (see 1:2)
  - *Received – to lay hold of*
    - Paul+ preached God's message
    - The people heard and understood it
  - *Accepted – to welcome, with favor and approval (as with a friend) (see 1:6)*





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- *Rhema: a statement; something spoken; the subject matter*

- Things that God says

- E.g. – “Let there be...” (cf. Heb. 11:3)





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- *Logos: expression of intelligent thought; reasoning; declaration; disclosure*

- Not in *word* only (1:5) – not as only a reasoned speech or presentation





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- *Logos: expression of intelligent thought; reasoning; declaration; disclosure*

- Precepts, oracles, instructions

- For this we say to you *by the word of the Lord...* (4:15)





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- They accepted the message as from God

- Authoritative, binding

- Instructive, to be acted upon

- Trustworthy





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- What it does

- Performs its work – active, dynamic,  
*producing an effect*

- They were radically changed! (1:6-10)

- God uses His Word to change those  
who believe it





# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- What it does

- In you who believe (*Present Tense*)

- The working of the Word of God is conditioned upon our faith (cf. James 1:2-4, 12, 21-25)





## By Faith

- Chiropractor: “If you lay on these pool noodles it will help your back and neck.”
  - I heard and understood perfectly
  - I trust him
  - What will help my back and neck?



# By Faith

- Paul: “Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved” (Act 16:31)
  - Is it enough to understand it?
  - Is this true?
  - Is this true of you?



## By Faith

- “And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Heb. 13:16)
  - Is the point to understand it?
  - Is the point to accept it as true?
  - What’s the point?



# 1. Reception of the Word (13)

- The Word of God

- What it does

- Brings intimacy with God when done –  
Luke 8:19-21

- Brings blessing from God when obeyed  
– Luke 11:27-28; James 1:25





## 2. Suffering for the Word (14)

- Imitators of the Judean churches
  - Paul - first-hand knowledge (Acts 8:1-4)
  - Silvanus (Silas) - lived in Jerusalem (Acts 15:22)





## 2. Suffering for the Word (14)

- Endured the same sufferings
  - Persecution is part of Christianity (John 15:18-25; 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12)
  - *Own countrymen* – neighbors, friends
  - Rejoice! (Matt. 5:11-12)
  - Be prepared! (1 Pet. 3:13-17)





### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)



- *The Jews*

- Sometimes simply *Jewish* (Acts 21:20-21)
- Here and elsewhere: Jews who rejected God's plan for salvation (*the circumcision*)
  - Jesus as Messiah (Acts 13:45)
  - By grace apart from Law (Galatians)
  - Include Gentiles??? (Acts 15)



### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)

- *The Jews*

- Killed the Lord Jesus

- The Romans *crucified* Him (Matt. 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:23-25; John 19:16, 23)

- But the Jews *murdered* Him (Acts 3:12-15; 5:27-32; 7:51-53)





### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)



- *The Jews*

- Killed the Lord Jesus

- According to God's plan (Acts 2:22-24; 4:27-28; Luke 24:44-49; Rom. 5:8)
    - Yet no one *took* His life (John 10:17-18; 19:30; Heb. 7:26-28; 9:13-14)



### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)

- *The Jews*
  - Not pleasing to God
    - *Ironical understatement*
    - For rejecting God's plan (Acts 13:44-46)
    - For rejecting the Gentiles (1 Thess. 2:16)





### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)



- *The Jews*
  - Hostile to all men
    - Hindering the Gentiles from being saved
    - *Stirred up the crowd/mob*
    - Did they ponder the story of *Jonah*?



### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)

- *The Jews*

- Fill up the measure of their sins
  - See Gen. 15:12-16; Matt. 23:31-36
  - God is long-suffering, but there is a tipping-point





### 3. Rejection of the Word (15-16)



- *The Jews*

- Wrath has come upon them to the end

- They already reached the tipping-point

- Romans 9-11

- Under judgement, but not abandoned

- They will be restored



# So What?

- Do I live the Word of God?
  - Do I accept it as the Word of God?
  - What has God said that I don't believe?
- Am I prepared for persecution?
- Am I really on-board with God's agenda?

