

## **God's Word working in You**

### **1Thessalonians 2:13-20**

Paul encourages the church & defends his conduct among them. The enemies that first opposed him & the gospel were still around seeking to influence young believer tuning them away by defaming Paul, trying to ruin his reputation. They sought to get at Paul so they could get to the people; militantly engaged in a smear campaign of Paul's character. Paul took no pay, no glory, only tender devotion to them. In every way an example in lifestyle to what he preached

*13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*

**Transmitter & receiver.** Voices, music, sports happening right now in the sanctuary...being transmitted & if transistor radio or device you can hear and know what's happening...**TV in old Days**--Rabbit ears...hard to receive. Same w/ word...some are locked in, picking up transmitted word as we teach & HS working in them to change life. Others like rabbit ears getting bits & pieces of message--intermittent, interference only little work of HS.

***Jn 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***

***Matt 11:15 He who has ears to hear let him hear.....what the spirit says***

***Rev 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'***

BG regularly declared in his sermons 'The bible says' – we want to be relevant but not at the expense of 'the bible says'...stories, humor, illustrations, anecdotes are ok but scripture, the bible says, is the life changing element in any teaching. Performs it's work in you...

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Belief in that message & what *the bible says* is spiritual life to the one receiving the message--faith is key to receiving. Our spirit bearing witness to God's Spirit performs the work of God's word changing lives.

Word imparted & received ...important we not get in way & taint work of God's word in peoples' lives...*preformed work in you.*

Container can flavor—try jazz up word, make taste better by clever, funny, original, unique stuff....*not as word of man*...man's efforts to speak & HS work to affect – *bad char/good church....good char/bad church....why?*

....matter of letting Spirit of God work thru word of God to change people of God inspired ***2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2Pet 1:20-21 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of ones own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

How we treat word will be how we treat Jesus **Jn 1:1,14** *Devil's disciples*

Paul is *thanking God, constantly*--*habit*...It is good to thank God for your brothers & sisters letting others know, in front of them...no greater encouragement to them to hear you are thinking about them & thanking God for them...be a Barnabas, *son of encouragement.*

***Rom 8:28-30 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.***

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*14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, 15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, 16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.*

*Imitators* mimic the spiritual life of Jerusalem, apostolic church --deals w/ character, integrity (**a good model**)...Gives persuasiveness when sharing the gospel....people read our lives...**2Cor 3:2 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts**

*Endured suffering*--Fellowship of Christ suffering is deepest bond we can know...they experiencing the same kind of suffering the church in Jerusalem experienced—Jews in Jerusalem, Gentiles in Thessalonica.

Thessalonica believer were like the mother church in Jerusalem believers...commendation even suffering same...Saints come to Thessalonica & say '***I feel like I'm at my home church in Jerusalem--apostles church***' Great commendation...allowing HS to do same work....we need good church models & leaders...as goes the leader & church members so goes the church....evidence of responding to HS.

*Killed Lord* - Passion of the Christ---Mel Gibson...controversy blame Jews for Jesus death. Saying Anti-semitic....Paul blamed death of Christ & prophets & persecution of church on Jewish unbelievers...**today Islamist**

**Stephen--Acts 7:52"Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers".**

*Wrath* came 70 AD Titus sacked Jerusalem destroyed temple **Hosea 6:1-3**

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*17 But we, brethren, having been bereft of you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. 18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan thwarted us. 19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.*

Paul *bereft* – not physically w/ them was painful, but w/ you in spirit—heart yearns and longs to see and be w/ them. Relationships, bonds of love are formed in fellowship...away for a time but renewed instantly, not awkward.

Daniels prayer delayed three weeks...*prince of Persia*...How does Satan hinder? Sickness, circumstances, jail, mobs, shipwrecks, spiritual oppression (*emotions*), persecution... Expect it when moving forward...a threat to devil...he seeks to hinder & stop, turn back...more than once.

*You our hope, joy, crown*--are what we live for now & when present w/ Lord God rewards, not numbers, facilities, budget but only what goes to heaven...People.

*You our glory & joy*--Christianity is relationships...we do well to value what God values...*growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*...and loving one another. **1Cor 13--13***But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*