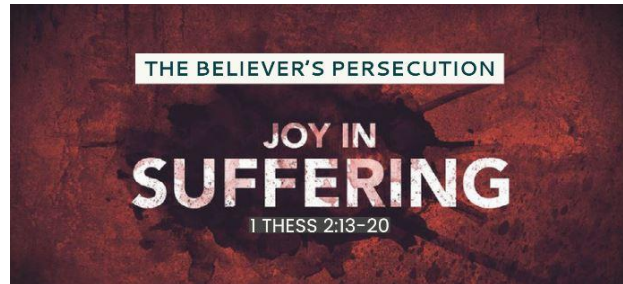


*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

**Scripture(s) for Today: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 – the secret to joy in Christian persecution**

Today's Message:

**"Joy in Suffering"**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned the difference between real and fake ministry. Paul gave us his basic ministry plan – have boldness in God, seek to please God and not men, care for people, and walk worthy of your calling. Today, we will learn that the Thessalonians had to grow up in Christ very quickly. After receiving the word of God and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ, they were thrust into painful **SUFFERING**. The believer's persecution is often misunderstood. We know false prophets often lure people into churches promising them a life of prosperity and blessing. However, the Bible says **ALL** that will live godly in Christ Jesus **SHALL** suffer persecution! Our passage will end today with the secret to Paul's great joy in the midst of great suffering. He will focus their eyes on a **CROWN** of rejoicing: for the Thessalonians had gotten saved and would be with Jesus Christ at His coming and for ever and ever and ever! Amen.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text [1 Thessalonians 2:13-20]

#### #1. *The Cause of Thanksgiving* – they received the word of God **CORRECTLY**. (13)

##### COMPARING SCRIPTURES

W1828  
"effectually"  
  
With effect;  
in a manner to  
produce the  
intended effect;  
thoroughly.

- ✓ The word of God has the **POWER** to change lives. *Ps 33:9; Jn 11:43; Heb 4:12; 2Tim 2:9*
- ✓ The word of God comes with a **PROMISE** from God. *Isa 55:11; Deut 32:2; Lk 8:11*
- ✓ The Bible says **FAITH** comes by *hearing* the word of God. *Romans 10:17; Gal 3:2, 5*
- ✓ It is possible to hear and receive the word of God **INCORRECTLY**. *Heb 4:2; 3:12-13*
- ✓ If you believe the Bible was written by men, it will **not** change you! *Mk 7:7; Titus 1:14*
- ✓ If you believe the Bible is in truth the word of God, it **effectually** works in you! *2Cor3:18*

**NOTE** The difference between who you are now and who you could be for God's glory comes down to how you receive and believe the words of God; they can change you!

#### #2. *The Cup of Suffering* – they followed God's churches in **PERSECUTION**. (14-18)

##### COMPARING SCRIPTURES

- ✓ Following the churches of God in Christ Jesus resulted in **SUFFERING**. *1Ths 1:6*

**2022 VISION:** *This is our time!*  
*Making disciples and caring for souls!*

- ✓ Paul told them they would *suffer tribulation* – and they **DID**. **1Ths 3:4; Acts 17**
- ✓ When Stephen died, there was *great persecution at Jerusalem*. **Acts 8:1,3; 11:19**
- ✓ Before Paul got saved, he was part of *the great persecution* himself. **Acts 9:1,13**
- ✓ James (brother of John) was killed by Herod with his *vexing of churches*. **Acts 12:1-3**
- ✓ Paul said the churches of Macedonia had a *great trial of affliction*. **2Cor 8:1-2**
- ✓ Many Church History Periods had *great trials of affliction and persecution*. **Rev 2, 3**
- ✓ The Bible says Jesus learned **OBEDIENCE** by the things which he suffered. **Heb 5:8**
- ✓ The Bible says **ALL** that will *live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*. **2Tim 3:12**
- ✓ Their suffering was **at the hands of very evil people** hell bent to prevent souls **SAVED**.
- ✓ **Satan hindered them** from coming to help. **Ezra 6:8; Lk 11:52; Rom 15:21,22; 1Pet3:7**

**NOTE** This is spiritual war; Paul sought to prepare the churches for persecution and pain that would surely come. We must prepare for war: put on the whole armour of God!

### #3. *The Crown of Rejoicing* – all **SOULS** saved will be with Jesus Christ! (19-20)

#### COMPARING SCRIPTURES

- ✓ The *crown of rejoicing* will be given at the *Judgment Seat of Christ*. **1Cor3:14; 2Cor5:10**
- ✓ The *crown of rejoicing* is also called *the soul winner's crown*. **Prov 11:30; Dan 12:3**
- ✓ The Bible says there is **REJOICING** in heaven when one sinner repents. **Lk 15:7, 10**
- ✓ In the context of great persecution and suffering for Christ, Paul asks this question.
  - **Question:** *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?*
  - **Answer:** *Are not even YE in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?*
- ✓ Paul's secret to joy in suffering: *For YE ARE our glory and joy*. **2Cor 1:14; Php 2:16; 4:1**

**NOTE** Paul says their glory and joy was THE PEOPLE they had led to Christ and cared for! There is perhaps no greater joy in the Christian life than leading someone to faith in Christ and discipling them! Satan will do anything to stop soul winning discipleship!

#### B. The Application (How will you apply this truth to your life?)

1. You must correctly receive the word of God as it is in **TRUTH** the word of God.

❖ **Question:** *When was the last time you were changed by reading and believing the Bible?*

2. You must patiently learn obedience to God by the **THINGS** which you suffer.

❖ **Question:** *Do you learn from sufferings? Persecution? Do you ask God to help you learn?*

3. You will have joy in suffering when set your life to **WIN** souls and make disciples!

❖ **Question:** *When did you last lead someone to faith in Christ? Prayed for a soul to lead?*

**2022 VISION:** *This is our time!*  
*Making disciples and caring for souls!*