

## 1 Thessalonians 2 Part 3

We concluded a couple of weeks with the example laid for us on how to live.

Devoutly- Having a Christ centered life.

Justly- Doing what is right.

Blamelessly- Living our life for the witness of Christ.

What I find Godincidental is that these examples that Paul says he lives is what we described in the Book of Job last week and how Job lived.

It is this type of stuff that continues to amaze me and remind me that we serve a true and living God! That our faith is ever active and moving. That all things are done according to His purpose and will!

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1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but

as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

A) The one thing that made the Thessalonians very effective in the way they lived is the fact that they believed and received everything the Apostle Paul said, as the Word of God.

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

B) So, it is today. The difference between an effectual and fruitful believer is how they perceive the words that are spoken in the scriptures and what they do with them...

Let's take a look at the words of our Lord...

John 15:1-17 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and

every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

(3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

(8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

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(14) For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things

from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

A) The common reality that is found with people who truly live the life for Jesus Christ is that it is not absent of some form of persecution and hate.

Matthew 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

(While this is a statement that talks about the time of tribulation, it is a reality for many today.)

2 Timothy 3:12 (12) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

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These same Judeans did not only persecute me...

(15) who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,(16) forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up

the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

A) It is very clear what the Apostle and the scriptures say of some of the Jews and others that persecuted them.

1. They kill the messengers of God.

Matthew 23:37-38 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! (38) Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

2. They do not please God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

3. They are truly against people.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

And

4. They do not want people to know the truth and be saved. They are storing up for themselves wrath.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

....Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

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(17) But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. (18) Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

A) While Paul was separated for a short time, he desired to go back to encourage the Church. He did indicate that Satan hindered us. This hindering could have been due to the need found in other places. The Apostles were continually combating and dealing with not only Jews but false prophets and Judaizers in the Church.

## IN CONCLUSION,

(19) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (20) For you are our glory and joy.

Paul's goal was to see the believers in Thessalonica saved and in the arms of Christ. Just as it should be a concern for us to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

To encourage them to seek the Lord, to grow, and to love. This is what all Pastors seek for those under their leadership.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch

for your souls, as they that must give account,  
that they may do it with joy, and not with grief:  
for that is unprofitable for you.