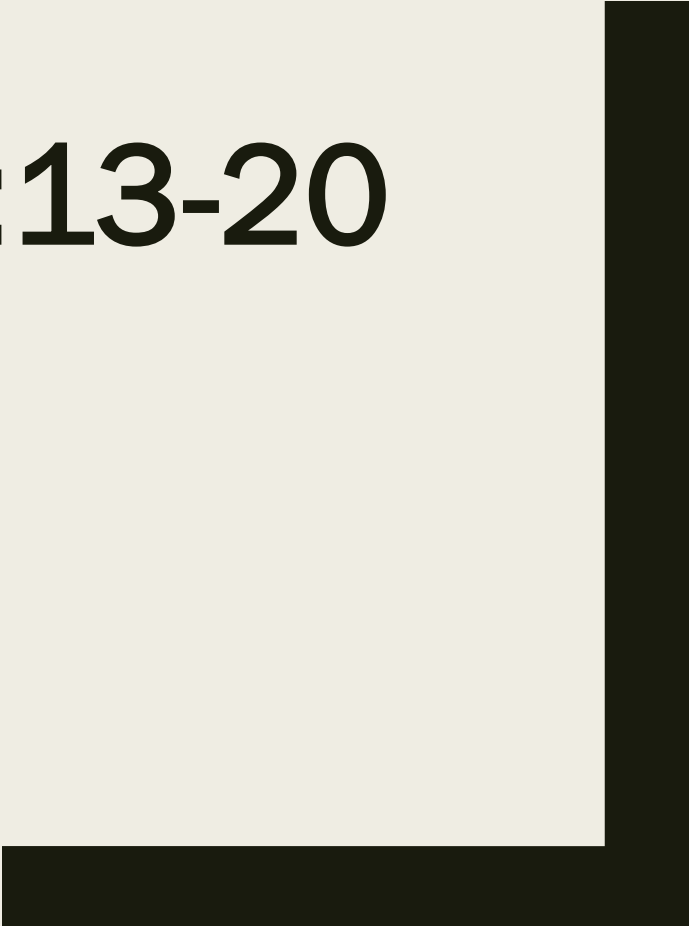




I THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

Witnessing
the Wonders
of Walking
in the Word





BUT FIRST

Sorry about that.

And then, the recap . . .

For those of you that slept in last week,
here's what you may have missed:

I Thessalonians 2:7-12

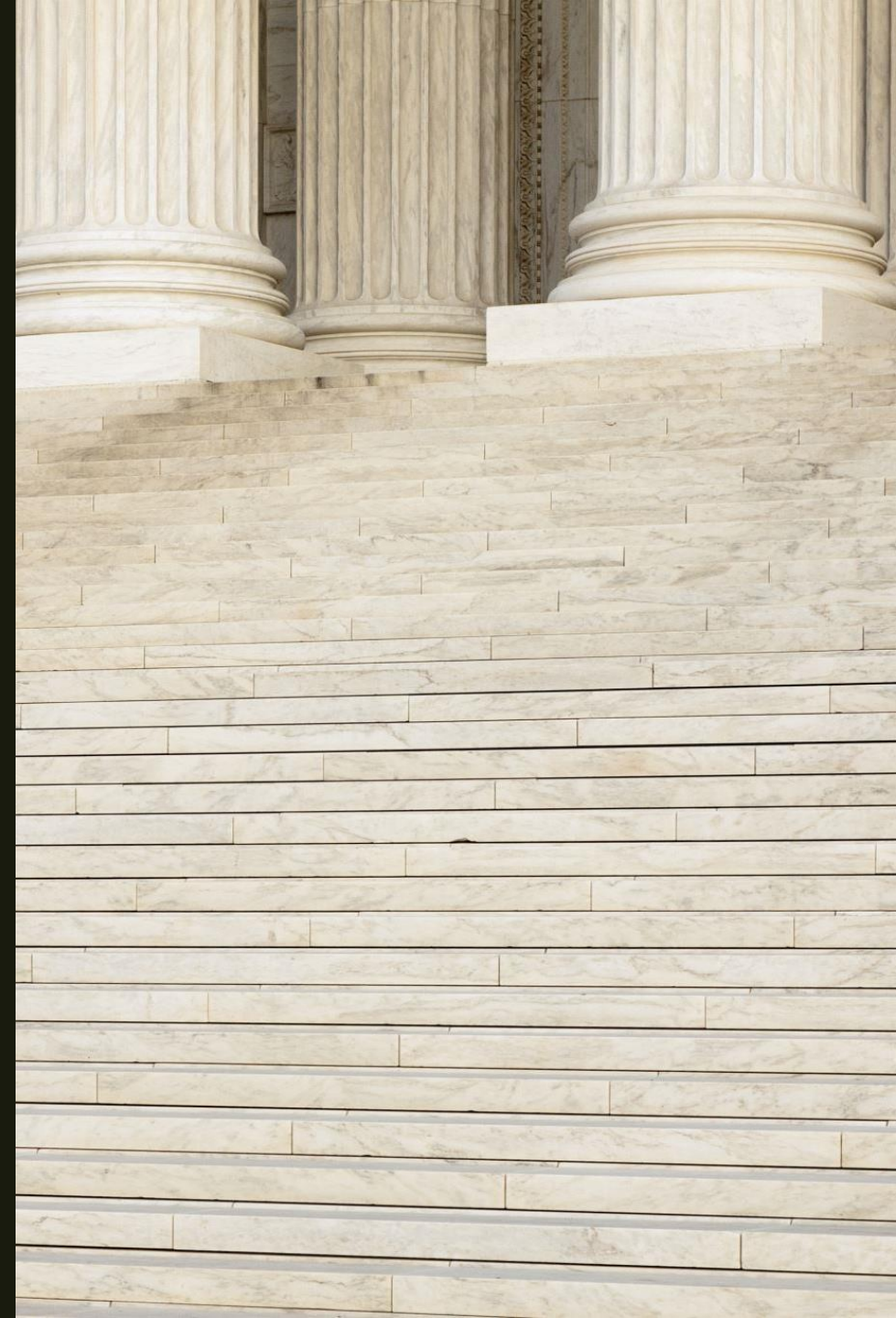
Paul's use of words of affection (vs 7-8)

- Gentle
- Nursing mothers
- Caring for children
- Affectionately desirous
- "share . . . ourselves"
- "very dear to us"

And then the recap . . .

Paul's duties described (vs 9-12)

- “we labored toiled”
- “we worked night and day”
- “we didn't want to be a burden to you”
- “we proclaimed the gospel”
- “our conduct was holy, righteous, and blameless”
- “we exhorted you, like fathers”
- “we encouraged and charged you”



Paul covers the whole family gamut

Between last week and this week, Paul will have referenced infants, mothers, fathers, siblings (brothers), and orphans (ie being torn away).

What's his point?

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind

16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But God's wrath has come upon them at last!

17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,

18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

20 For you are our glory and joy.

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Paul is thanking God that:

Vs.13: The Thessalonians *accepted the Word* after they had received it

- Not as the word from men
 - Cf vs. 12 “walk in a manner worthy of God”
 - Consider our discussion from last week
- But in the word of God
 - The Word is at work in the believers
 - I Cor 1:18
 - Hebrews 4:12

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Paul is thanking God that . . .

Vs. 14 They became imitators of the churches of God

- They suffered, just like the mother churches in Judea

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Verses 15-16. What happened to that caring spirit of Paul? WOW!

“15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind

16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But God's wrath has come upon them at last!”

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

“But God’s wrath has come upon them at last.”

Time for some expert commentary:

Colin Nicholl

“Does Paul have in mind here:

1. The Judean famine in AD 44-47?
2. The riot and massacre in Jerusalem in AD 48-49?
3. The expulsion of Jews from Rome in AD 49?
4. A future event?”

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

“But God’s wrath has come upon them at last.”

Time for some expert commentary:

Dr. Thomas Constable

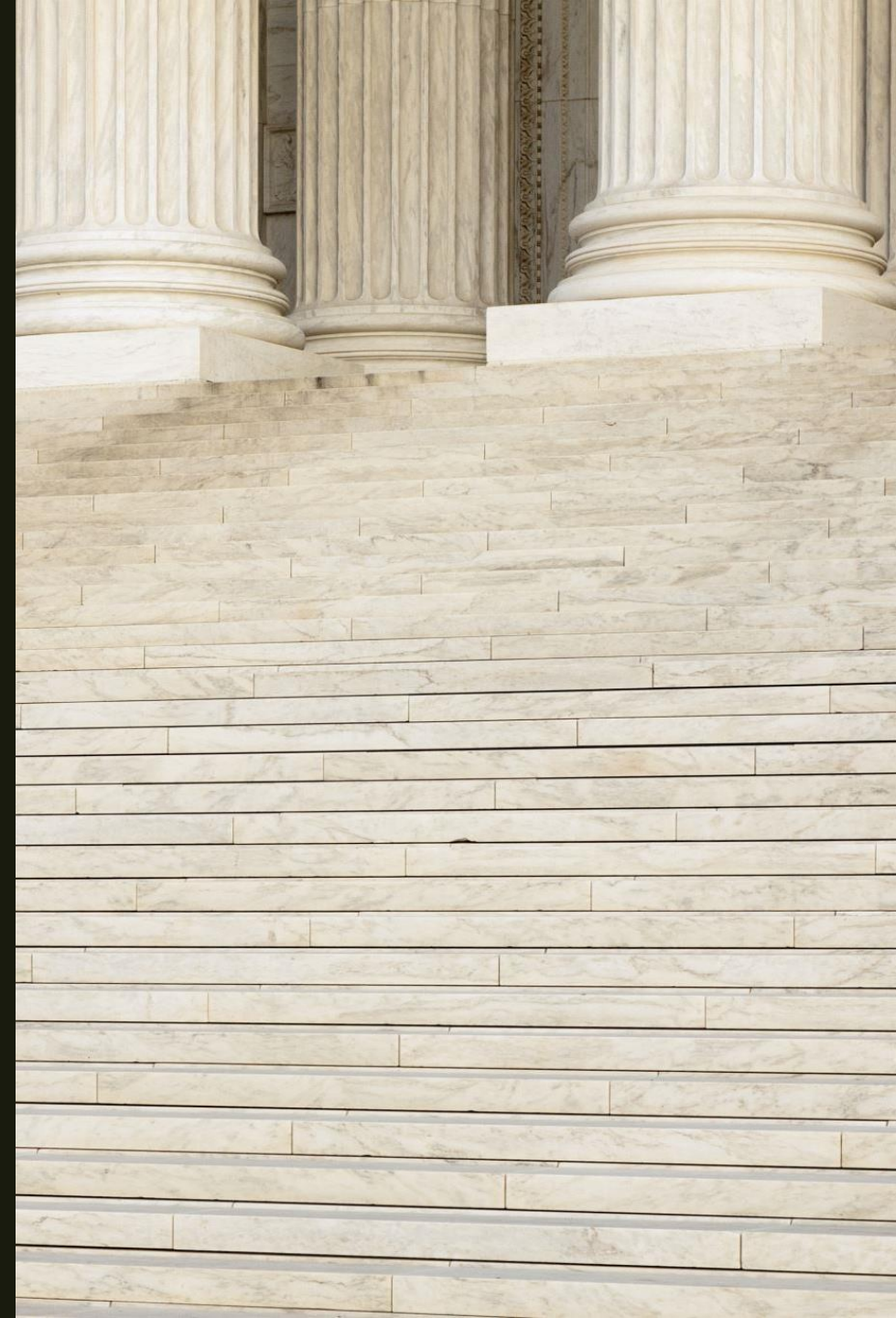
1. “May refer to the eternal judgment that will come on all unbelievers (John 3:36). Or,
2. It may refer to the present spiritual blindness with which God has judged the Jews as a whole because of their rejection of Christ (Romans 11:25). Or,
3. It could refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, which was not far off. Or,
4. In lieu of the eschatological emphases of the letter, Paul may have been alluding to the judgement coming on Jewish unbelievers during the Tribulation.”

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Charles A. Wanamaker

“This indictment implies that Paul saw a continuity in the pattern of Jewish rejection of God’s agents from Old Testament times to his own.”

What say you?



Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Back to the “Pauline Emotions”

Wrapping up with verses 17-18

17 But since we were torn away (Greek: “orphaned”) from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,

18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?


20 For you are our glory and joy.

Witnessing the Wonder of Walking in the Word

- Paul finishes his gamut
 - “*orphan*”

- Then teases us with being “hindered”
 - *Literally: to cut into. Was used originally of breaking up a road to make it impassable*
 - Who was doing the “hinder?”
 - Satan?
 - The Holy Spirit?
 - God, allowing Satan to hinder?
 - Paul, through inspiration, declares it was Satan





Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Final thoughts from Tony Evans.

Three Anchors of Authentic Testimony, or
Walking in the Word:

1. God's Word
2. Fellowship with other believers
3. A vision of the Glory of God

Witnessing the Wonders of Walking in the Word

Take-aways. Take a step down the slippery slope. “If this, then”

Receive the word>>

Read the word>>

Apply the word>>

The word changes us>>

We change others

Rinse, repeat!