

FUTURE HOPE

1 THESSALONIANS

The Effective Working of The Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

“Only two things in this world are eternal—the Bible and people.”

**1. Thank God for the work of His
Word (2:13-16)**

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.

without ceasing = constantly

**Received = learn from someone,
welcomed**

**(Which you) heard = pay attention
to, listen carefully**

**received ("dechomai") = believed,
took hold of**

**Effectively works ("ENERGEO") =
function, bring about, energize**

The word "received" is an objective external response that refers to "the hearing of the ear."

The word translated "welcomed" is a subjective internal response that refers to "the hearing of the heart."

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

How was the Word working in them effectively?

- Ch.1 The gospel was being spread throughout the whole region.**
- Ch. 2 They were Enduring Persecution.**

**As a church family, how can we grow
in our response to God's Word?**

**Pray for a deeper appreciation for
the Word.**



**“The Bible is God’s
best gift to man.”**

- Abraham Lincoln

**“There is little difference in people,
but that little difference makes a
big difference.”**

**Work hard in your study of the
Word.**

**Apply what you hear and learn in
the Word.**

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

**If we want people connected to
God, we want them connected to
His Word.**

1 Thessalonians 2:14

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,

Imitators = mimetes = mimic

**People in your ministry will grow
in a healthy relationship with Jesus
if you are setting the example.**

**“I don’t know the key to success,
but the key to failure is trying to
please everybody.”**

If you struggle with being a people pleaser and having thin skin, I have two suggestions for you:

- 1) Seek to hang out with bold believers.**
- 2) Study the persecuted church.**

Voice of The Martyrs

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1 Thessalonians 2:15

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,

1 Thessalonians 2:16

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.

Lord = kyrios = owner, ruler

**Persecute = to pursue and drive
out**

Contrary = hostile, against

**Forbidding = preventing,
hindering**

May be saved = healed, rescued

**To fill up = to bring to completion,
to make complete**

Wrath = anger, punishment

Uttermost = completely, finally

This passage is a condemnation of some of the Jewish people of a particular time in a particular place, specifically the religious leaders who rejected Jesus and opposed the early church in the first century.

**We must thank God for the work of
His Word. Why?**

Because God's Word changes lives!

**1. Thank God for the work of His
Word (2:13-16)**

**2. Thank God for the work of His
followers (2:17-20)**

1 Thessalonians 2:17

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.

**Having been taken away =
separate, to make an orphan father
taken from his kids**

Presence = face, person, presence

More eagerly = excessively

**To see = to visit, experience, to find
out about**

**It has been said, "If absence makes
the heart grow fonder,
Then some Christians must really
love the church."**

1 Thessalonians 2:18

Therefore we wanted to come to you—
even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan
hindered us.

**Hindered = prevent. Verb used to
cut in a road, to make a road
impassable.**

Satan's primary strategy against the church is to discourage us by stirring up opposition so that we will stop spreading the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

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.

Joy = reason for gladness

Crown = wreath or prize

Rejoicing = boasting

Coming = arrival

Joy = reason for gladness

One of Paul's rewards in heaven would be the pleasure of seeing all those new Christians standing with him.

**The greatest reward of ministry is
seeing people saved!**

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