



LESSON THREE: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

OASIS Bible Study - September 29 & October 1, 2026

LET'S REVIEW: Without looking at your notes from previous weeks, what are some things you have learned about 1 Thessalonians so far?

Several different word pictures in 1 Thessalonians help us understand what the Thessalonians were going through.

1. ***"Affliction, severe suffering, troubles" – 1:6, 3:3***
2. ***"Suffered" – 2:14***
3. ***"Persecuted, driven out" – 2:15***
4. ***"Working against all mankind" – 2:15***
5. ***"Satan prevented, hindered" – 2:18***

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God — which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

The church was founded on the _____ of _____.

That's where faith begins.
See Romans 10:17.

The Word of God isn't just an ordinary book!

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

See Isaiah 55:11.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, ²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

See Acts 27:15-17.

God _____ the Word, and men _____ it down.

Read the following passage from Psalm 19. UNDERLINE the five words that refer to the words of God. CIRCLE the adjectives that describe the words of God.

Psalm 19:7-9

The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.

⁹ Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God — which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

The Thessalonians received the word with their _____ and accepted it with their _____ .

How we treat God's Word show's our regard for _____.

1. **Jesus is the _____ Word; the Bible is the written Word** (John 1:1 & 14, 2 Timothy 3:16).
2. **Both Jesus and the Word are described as _____** (Matthew 4:4, John 6:8).
3. **Both Jesus and the Word are described as _____** (John 8:12, Psalm 119:105).
4. **Both Jesus and the Word are described as _____** (John 14:6, 17:17).
5. **Both Jesus and the Word are _____** (Romans 1:25, 1 Peter 1:23 & 25).

APPLICATION: Take a moment to honestly reflect on how you treat God's Word — how you read it, receive it, and put it into practice. If the way you treat God's Word reflects the way you regard Jesus, what does that reveal about your relationship with Him? Write your thoughts in the space below.

James 1:22

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 2:14-15

¹⁴ And then, dear brothers and sisters, you suffered persecution from your own countrymen. In this way, you imitated the believers in God's churches in Judea who, because of their belief in Christ Jesus, suffered from their own people, the Jews. ¹⁵ For some of the Jews killed the prophets, and some even killed the Lord Jesus. Now they have persecuted us, too.

Acts 7:58 & 8:1

His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul... Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.

Philippians 3:10-11

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

2 Timothy 3:11-12

¹¹ You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. ¹² Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

In light of that Scripture, what does it mean if we aren't suffering persecution as Christ-followers?

2 Thessalonians 2:15-16

They fail to please God and work against all humanity ¹⁶ as they try to keep us from preaching the Good News of salvation to the Gentiles. By doing this, they continue to pile up their sins. But the anger of God has caught up with them at last.

OUR RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.

²⁰ Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. ¹⁸ We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us. ¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! ²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy.

What are some statements that show Paul's affection for these believers in Thessalonica?

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Three enemies in the life of every Christian: _____

1 John 4:4

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! ²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy.

These people were especially important to Paul because they were important to God!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- 1. How am I treating God's Word right now? What is one thing God has recently shown me that I need to put into practice?*
- 2. Is there a person or situation where I have been tempted to respond to hurt with anger, avoidance, revenge, or bitterness? What would it look like to overcome that evil by doing good this week?*
- 3. Who has God placed in my life that I need to encourage, disciple, pursue, or pray for? What is one intentional step I can take toward them this week?*
- 4. What obstacle, distraction, or discouragement has been keeping me from doing what God has called me to do? How can I stand firm in Christ rather than give up?*

APPLICATION: What has God's Word shown me today, and what will I do differently because of it?
