

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF  
**THESSALONIANS**

CHAPTER 2:13-20

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM. #229 ~ MAY 5, 1996

**TITLE:**

**" HOW A CHURCH IS LOVED "**  
**A CALL TO WATCH & WAIT**

**THEME:**

*1 Thessalonians 1:10*

*"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

**INTRODUCTION**

Paul had written *to The Church at Thessalonica to encourage them in their commitment to Jesus Christ!*

He reminded them *of what they had been taught while he was there among them*

#1

THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE ELECTION & MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE

#2

HE INSTRUCTED THEM IN THE DOCTRINE CONCERNING THE IMMINENT RETURN OF  
JESUS CHRIST

#1 **OUR MISSION** until Jesus picks us up - is to evangelize the world & teach the church God's truth.

#2 **OUR MISSION** should be conducted with our eyes to the clouds, looking for His unannounced return for the church

**"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"**  
(THEIR EXAMPLE TO US)

**"HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE"**  
(HIS EXAMPLE TO US)

And All of it Being Blessed, Because God is On Our Side  
- as a Church and He is for Us as Leaders - All of Us!

## DURING THE CIVIL WAR

a soldier approached Abraham Lincoln and said, "President Lincoln, I am most anxious to know if the Lord be on our side in this war... Lincoln paused for a moment and said, "That is not my concern son. My concern is, are we on the Lord's side?"

Romans 8:31

If God is for us, who can be against us?

...And Paul is for Them as a Church and as Individuals!

### 1.) God's Word Within Us

vv. 13

The Scriptures, They had made it a Priority in their lives to seek God's word (The Old Testament - they evangelized, disciplined others, and taught)

### When God's Word Fills Your Heart...

#@%\$\$^)\_(\*(&^%%\$# (What does that Mean to me) #@%\$\$^)\_(\*(&^%%\$#

#### a) Paul Gives Them His Vote of Confidence

v. 13a

(For this reason we also thank God without ceasing,)

### There's nothing like being encouraged

- those who serve need encouragement

(spiritual labor is often unpredictable & usually unnoticed)

- ? - Who's teaching your child right now - your teenager
- ? - Who's aligned the chairs for this morning
- ? - Who folds the bulletins each week
- ? - Who cleans the church & bathrooms after every service

#### b) #1 - The Church had Heard Well

v. 13b

(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)

## They Appreciated The Word of God!

\* **Received** **GRK 3880 paralambano (par-al-am-ban'-o)**  
to receive alongside or near you,  
**To listen with the ears.**

\*

**Welcomed GRK 1209 dechomai (dekh'-om-ahée)**

to take what is near and to accept it, to ingest it.

**To listen with the heart**

**THE BIBLE WILL NEVER BE UNDERSTOOD**  
unless you listen with your ears and your heart - It requires it!

**JESUS QUOTED AND**

Affirmed the Authorship, Accuracy, Authority of the Bible in His teachings and by His life!

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine!

**2 Peter 1:19-20**

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed to

**(the Bible challenges you to Test it)**

**(JACK, THAT'S YOUR INTERPRETATION - WRONG - NEXT VERSE PLEASE)**

:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture  
is of any private interpretation.

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

**An example of The Power of His Word**

**Luke 5:4-5**

**When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." :5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing.....(YOU DONT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FISHING - REMEMBER, YOU'RE THE CARPENTER, WE'RE THE FISHERMEN. YOU USE A HAMMER & NAILS. WE USE A BOAT AND NET)**  
**nevertheless at Your Word I will let down the net."**

**(So what Jack - that's just Jesus' power over some fish)**

**THAT'S WHERE I NEED HIM IN MY LIFE - OVER THE FISH, CAR, THE JOB**

Luke 5:6-7

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. :7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. - THEN JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, CARPENTERS  
**KNOWETH HOW TO FISH TOO! - *The Word of God***

many Christians suffer because they neglect to fellowship in church and in the word.... their pursuit of money or pleasure more than His Word has sterilized them...

c) And #2 - They Had Done Good v. 13c

(which also **effectively works** in you who believe.)

## They Applied The Word of God!

The **Word** of God has built into it the **Power** of God to Accomplish the **Will** of God in the World through the **People** of God

THE PROOF OF A PERSON'S FAITH *and salvation is seen in public devotion!*

- Our Internal, personal, and invisible faith in God can only be true IF...
- There is an External, Public and Visible work among our neighbors

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## Visible "Faith" is Called "Works"

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And a Christian Still Living for Himself - Herself is like a car without wheels. They look good & sound good - but they're not going anywhere

Then there are those who think they're a Christian, who live for only themselves, serve only themselves and are content to live like that indefinitely - (don't ask me to serve - to care - to love - to help)

Don't ask me those Things - Who do you think you are anyway?

✧ ✧ **MATTHEW 25:14** ✧ ✧

Luke 6:46

"why do you call Me `Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

## They Had Done Good - Why ?

(Because the Bible was **effectively at work** in you who believe.)

**a letter I received** this week really made me give God thanks...  
a sister who, for all her life had been exposed to God but now is living in God...  
but the word of God

## THERE'S A LETTER BEING WRITTEN OF US AS A CHURCH

JESUS WROTE 7 LETTERS TO 7 CHURCHES IN 7 PLACES

Revelation 2:1

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write"

- ("**I know your works** you're a busy church, bulletin full of events, crowded, working hard for God -  
but they had lost sight of Him)

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Revelation 2:8

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write"

- ("**I know your works** stay close to Me, tough times are coming)

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Revelation 2:12

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,"

- ("**I know your works** you've allow pagan practices in & you have allowed false doctrine to be  
taught)

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Revelation 2:18

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,"

- ("**I know your works** reject the liberalism that is around you and hold fast what you have till I return)

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Revelation 3:1

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,"

- ("**I know your works** that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

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Revelation 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,"

- (These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens  
and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "**I know your works**. See, I have set before you  
an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not  
denied My name..... :10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from  
the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

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Somewhere, as an Individual Christian  
and as a Local Church, we can be filled

2.) God's People Around Us

vv.14-16

a) They Identified with the Local Believers

v.14

For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches(s) of God (the local body) which are in  
Judea in Christ Jesus.....

# (God is into the “Local Body” of Believers)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, :25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS)

## b) The Christian Expects Hardship Along the Way v. 14b

For you also **suffered** the same things from your own countrymen,  
just as they did from the Judeans,”

Thessalonica was not a “Pro-Christian” City,  
*it was not an easy place to be a believer.*

\* **Suffered** GRK 3958 pascho (pas'-kho)  
to experience rejection and isolation

Their Intake of the Bible Guaranteed their Success over any obstacle

John 16:33  
"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

\* **Conquer absolutely. To prevail against completely.  
To get the victory over!**

**IF WE ARE GOING TO ENDURE SUFFERING,  
WE MUST BEGIN TO “APPRECAITE THE WORD OF GOD”**

**This Past Week** I had the Opportunity to visit Mount Vernon, George Washington’s home and burial place. From that place he designed the white House and executed the affairs of state of a brand new nation....

but going through Maryland & Virginia you pass civil war **battlefield after battlefield** and the tens of thousands who died for freedom here in America.

? Would George Washington have begun the work to forge a new country had he known that wars lay ahead....

**- God had given him a mission!**

- HE ASSUMED THAT HARDSHIPS WOULD COME
- HE PREPARED FOR THEM & PREPARED OTHERS FOR THEM AS WELL

1 Peter 4:12

do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; :13 but rejoice to the extent that - you partake of Christ's sufferings, - that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. THERE IS COMMON SUFFERING APPOINTED TO ALL.... THEN THERE'S SUFFERING THAT'S SPIRITUALLY BASED

1 Thessalonians 1:6

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much **affliction**. (Pressures from circumstances)

### - Warren Weirsbe

“Churches ought to call these times “Growing Pains” as they seek to win the lost, teach the believers and glorify the Lord. We may not experience the same persecution as the early church did, but there are brothers and sisters in the world today going through attacks even greater. All this confirm again to our hearts the “Readiness” of God’s Word to our souls”

“WHEREVER CHRISTIANITY IS ATTACKED - It's Flourishing and Fruitful”

- the countries that try to suppress Jesus - people gather more
- the families that reject Him - someone gives up & comes
- the people who refuse the Good news - eventually realize their great need

## Because of Opposition,

You all have been fasting & praying for 5 months now

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THIS IS THE BEAUTY OF A LOCAL FELLOWSHIP  
(We Are Concerned for What is Happening Here First)

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Linda Churchill's commendation of our perseverance and enthusiasm to stick to it - tenacity

Luke 6:22

**Blessed** are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and attack you, and cast out your name as an evil thing, for My sake. :23 "**Rejoice** in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. (Because the rejection is Christ centered - we are then identified as being one with Him)

**Elijah failed when he** isolated himself from the other faithful believers and began to think that he was the only believer left - “GOD, I’VE HAD ENOUGH, TAKE MY LIFE!”

## Verse 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,

**THE JEWISH** man failed to understand that the law was never intended to save him. It was given so that he would see his total depravity and need for the messiah.

**UNFORTUNATELY** when the Messiah came, Pride, self-confidence, and independence from God resulted in a strict adherence to their man-made traditions.

**THE JEWS DURING THE TIME OF MESSIAH** rejected Him just as their fathers had done the prophets who told them the "How To's" of Identifying their Savior

**IT'S A SIN COMMITTED BY BOTH JEW &  
GENTILE ALIKE - ALL ARE GUILTY!**

c) Sin is Has a Running Account

v.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.

## An Absolutely Terrifying Verse

there is a meter in God's presence that monitors and stores the sins committed by ever person ever born...

{ alongside your house is your electrical meter... }

watch that baby when you turn on a blow dryer or an iron

**Some people have** a sin-o-meter that's spinning like a top, Others have one that's barely moving at all - (but it's moving)

{ like a parking-meter, it's your car, and time is running out! }

Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.



Before we were Christians we might have said...

“Let’s Go Raise Some Hell”

YOU CANT DO THAT - DOESN'T WORK

RAISING HELL ONLY LOWERS YOU

Revelation 6:17

"For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

don't be upset with God!

John 3:18-19

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. "And this is (what sends people to hell) the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

### 3.) God’s Glory Awaits Us

vv. 17-20

#### Verse 17

#### a) Paul’s Passion to be with Again

Colossians 2:5

For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

#### Verse 18

#### b) This Demonic Ride is About Over

**Paul is Just so Bold & Blunt about the Truth**

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## Yah, Satan’s Been Goofin’ Things Up!

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**So What !!! - Paul would Say.  
I remember what John said one day...**

1 John 4:4  
You are of God, children, and have overcome,  
because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

## Verse 19

Announcement #2 - about the Rapture of the Church

## Verse 20

a) Our Hope, Joy & Crown: the call to Love

that the church would be a “prepared church”  
like a bride for her wedding

All the Prep...

• the location • the photos • the flowers • the people involved....

But the first thought was & is & going to be - what will I look like for Him on that day ?

**(The Dress & The Look)**

**"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"**  
**(THE CHURCHES EXAMPLE FOR US)**

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**"HOW A LEADER OUGHT TO BE"**  
**(PAUL'S EXAMPLE TO US)**

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**"HOW A CHURCH IS LOVED"**  
**(THE STANDARD TO EXPECT )**

1.) God's Word Within Us vv. 13

2.) God's People Around Us vv. 14-16

3.) God's Glory Awaits Us vv. 17-20