

1 Thessalonians

Lesson #7, Chapter 2:13-20

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. In the verses that precede it what does the phrase *for this reason* refer to in verse 13?
2. What do Paul and his coworkers continually, always, constantly thank God for (verse 13)?
3. Define *receive* (Strong's #3880) and *accept* [NKJV *welcomed* (Strong's #1209)].
4. In verse 13 notice the emphasis is on the Word of God rather than the preachers (as is also the case in 1:5, 8). What do you learn about the Word of God from this verse?
5. Now look up Jeremiah 23:29; Colossians 1:5-6; Hebrews 4:12-13; and 1 Peter 1:25 to see how the Scriptures attest to the power of God to work in your life. What do you learn?
6. Paul is thankful because the Thessalonians received and accepted God's Word, recognizing its worth and power and authenticity as from God though it was preached by men. Give an example from your life of how you *received and accepted the word for what it really is—the Word of God*.

7. What are some ways you have seen the Word of God change you? What are some practical ways in which you depend upon God's Word so it can change you?

8. Who did the Thessalonians imitate and in what way did they imitate them (verse 14)?

9. What observations can you make about the Jews from verses 14-16?

10. Verse 15 gives us a clue as to the motivation of the Jews' persecuting the believers. What is it?

11. Paul says the Jews are *not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men*. Why (verse 16)?

12. In verse 16 Paul says the Jews *always fill up the measure of their sins*. Explain what this phrase means after looking up the following verses to help refine your understanding: Genesis 15:16; Matthew 23:32; Romans 2:4-8; 1 Peter 3:19, 20; 2 Peter 3:7, 9.

13. What was the consequence of the Jews' continued rebellion (verse 16)?

14. What were the circumstances surrounding Paul and his coworkers being separated from the Thessalonian believers? See Acts 17:5-10.

15. The NASB text doesn't adequately convey the true meaning of verse 17. The NIV and KJV do a better job when they similarly translate the phrase *out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you*. What reason does Paul give for not being able to come to see the Thessalonians (verse 18)?

16. Though Satan had thwarted Paul from coming to them, what truths did Paul understand? See Genesis 50:20; Psalm 46:1-2; Romans 8:28; and 2 Corinthians 4:15-17.

17. How are those truths a comfort to you as you encounter obstacles and hindrances in your life?

18. What terms does Paul use to describe his feelings for the Thessalonians (verses 19-20)?

19. Second Thessalonians 1:3-5 gives more insight into why Paul says the Thessalonians are his *joy in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming*. What do you learn?

20. Who will be your joy in the presence of Jesus at His coming? What is the point of rejoicing in the changed lives of believers at Christ's return?