

Edgemont Bible Church
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Thessalonians

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Intro:

IV. For Whom to be Glad and For Whom to be Sad 2:13-16

A. A People For Whom to be Glad - vs 13-14

Three reasons we also thank God without ceasing,

1. The Thessalonian's reception of God's Word

a. because when you received the word of God

i. which you heard from us, lit "a word heard from us out from God"

ii. Refers back to the Gospel of God – 2:2,8,9

b. you welcomed it not as the word of men,

i. but as it is in truth, the word of God,

- superior to the words of human opinion

- because of Thessalonica's location, many false teachers

- welcomed – **edexasthe** – connotes an inward acceptance, moving from the mind to the heart

ii. which also effectively works in you who believe

- works effectively, efficiently, and productively

- God's word always works according to His purposes - Isa 55:11

-it saves people – Jas 1:18

-it sanctifies people – Jo 17:17

-it matures people – 1 Pe 2:2

-it frees people – Jo 8:31-32

-it perfects people – 2 Tim 3:16-17

-it counsels them – Ps 119:24

-it builds them up – Acts 20:32

-it ensures spiritual success – Josh 1:8

-it gives hope – Ps 119:147; Acts 20:32

- 1 Co 1:18-25

2. Proof of the Thessalonian's Accepting of the Word; Honoring the Saints - vs 14a

a. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God

i. Already mentioned that they had become imitators of himself and his co-workers

ii. expands to include the churches of Judea

iii. churches of God – showing their divine ownership

b. which are in Judea in Christ Jesus.

i. Judea – a Roman province in Palestine

- Most of these people would never have visited the churches in Judea

- It is then obvious that they shared in the same Spirit

ii. in Christ – true of all believers and churches

3. The Thessalonian's Perseverance in Suffering - vs 14b

a. Suffering is a part of being a believer

i. began shortly after the inception of the church with the martyrdom of Stephen – Act 7

ii. Continued with Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9

iii. Slowed for a little while until Herod martyred James – Acts 12:1-4

b. For you also suffered the same things

i. from your own countrymen – Acts 17:5-8

ii. just as they did from the Judeans,

B. A People For Whom to be Sad - vs 15-16

An abrupt transition brought on at the mention of the Jews persecuting the churches of Judea. The Jew were the antithesis of the Thessalonians. Paul had written about the how the Jews had turned their backs on their spiritual privilege in Ro 10:2-3.

1. The Jew's Rejection of God's Word - vs 15a

a. who killed both the Lord Jesus – Acts 2:22-23,36

b. and their own prophets

i. God's messengers – Jer 26:20-23; Heb 11:32-37; 1 Kgs 19:10; 2 Chr 24:40-41

ii. a summary of the Jews attitude toward God's messengers – **Mt 23:31-35**

iii. The parable of the landowner – **Mt 21:33-46**

c. and have persecuted us

i. Acts 17:10

ii. **Ekdiko** – refers to hunting down an animal with the intent to kill it

2. The Jew's Hindrance of the Saints - vs 15b-16a

a. and they do not please God – present tense denoting that their antagonistic attitude was habitual

b. and are contrary to all men – because of their racial prejudice they were hostile

c. forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved,

i. not only did they refuse to believe

ii. But like their spiritual leaders, prevented others from entering the kingdom of God – Mt 23:13-16

3. The Jew's Punishment in Suffering - vs 16b

a. The result of their hostility toward the Gospel

i. so as always to fill up the measure of their sins;

- lit. they always heap up their sins to the limit
- Gen 15:16 - for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete
- ii. God brings judgment only when sin has reached a certain limit – Dan 8:23’ Acts 17:30-31; Ro 2:5-6;
- b. but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.
 - i. has come – aorist – affirms Paul’s certainty that wrath would come that he expresses it as it has already happened
 - could be talking about 70 A.D., some 20 years yet future
 - could be the 2nd coming – Rev 19
 - ultimately refers to the judgment that come upon those that reject the gospel truth - Ro 2:8; 10:16; 2Th 1:8-9
 - ii. to the uttermost – **telos** - the point aimed at as a limit, the conclusion of an act or state, end(-ing), finally, uttermost