

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

"Consequences & The Word"

1 Thessalonians 2:14-20

February 3 - 9, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we come to our text found in **1 Thessalonians 2:14-20**. We have entitled the lesson "*Consequences & The Word*". These seven verses list for us various results that were brought on by and through The Word of God in the lives of the Thessalonians as well as in the lives of those who came in contact with them. We will find that the power of God's Word in them was proved in several ways. Remember last week's text which spoke to the fact that Scripture was "...in truth, the Word of God..." and remember the Thessalonians received it and now in this weeks study, we will see some results. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:13-20**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY –We are brought back to Paul's statement of thanks in **verse 13** as we move to our text. Paul is now going to speak about some of the results in the lives of these people who have "*received the Word*" and it was obviously working in them. The thing that he points out in **verse 14** which is proof positive they received the Word and Gospel message is that they, "*became imitators...*" Paul is not merely saying that these folks imitated Godly behavior (which is a command for us as true Believers—see **Ephesians 5:1**); but rather he is saying that these people were being persecuted for Christ's sake just like "...*the churches of God which are in Judea*" and in that sense were like their brothers and sisters from Judea. Their allegiance and obedience to Jesus and the gospel was verified in the fact that they "*suffered*" for their faith. "*Judea*" was a Roman province in Palestine which included the first "organized church", the church at Jerusalem which began on the day of Pentecost. Read about that body of believers in their beginning as well as their persecution and spreading from **Acts 2:14-24, 38-47, 8:1**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God help me to so truly receive the Word by faith that I will be willing to be ridiculed, picked on, laughed at, mocked, or whatever You would have me go through for the sake of Jesus. Give me strength and a growing love.*

TUESDAY –In **verse 15** we are told of the extent that the Lord Jesus was persecuted by His own people when He ministered to them. We are also told of the fate of many

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

of God's prophets when they came to their people the Jews with the message of God's wrath for sin and their need to repent and trust Jesus as their coming redeemer. The text says, "...who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets..." Paul would not and is not seen today as "politically correct" for he spells out clear as crystal that the Jewish people opposed the gospel and were the one's who demanded Jesus death and brought charges against Him just like they did to the prophets. Paul explains in great detail their opposition to the gospel in **Romans 9-11**. Paul tells the Thessalonians they were being persecuted by "your own countryman" (**verse 14**) just as Jesus, the prophets, and the church at Judea suffered from their own ethnic people. In God's grace He saw fit to bring into His family both Jew and Gentile, who are united by faith as one in Christ. Read of Paul's own people rejecting the Gospel in **Acts 13:40-52**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: O God, thank You for including me a Gentile in Your plan of Salvation. Have mercy on many, both Jew and Gentile and open the eyes of many more Jewish people to see the beauty of Messiah Jesus' work on the cross.

WEDNESDAY –In **verse 16**, Paul further elaborates on the opposition of his ethnic brothers and sisters the Jews to the gospel. He tells of the horrific desire of these people by saying they were "forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved..." This ungodly attitude is completely antithetical to the heart of Paul, Silas, Timothy and the Thessalonians in our text who desired men to hear and receive the Truth. It is also against the desire of God (**1 Timothy 2:4—see tomorrow's study**). Many evidences of God's wrath came upon the Jews but the eternal consequence of God's wrath against all who oppose Him and die unforgiven is specifically addressed in the last portion of **verse 16**. That wrath is so certain it is spoken of as already "come upon them..." Read **John 3:18, 36**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, thank You that there is no condemnation or wrath for those of us who are "in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Burden us to seek the lost.

THURSDAY –*(John MacArthur study Bible notes concerning **1 Timothy 2:4**)* **desires all men to be saved**. The Gr. word for "desires" is not that which normally expresses God's will of decree (His eternal purpose), but God's will of desire. There is a distinction between God's desire and His eternal saving purpose, which must transcend His desires. God does not want men to sin. He hates sin with all His being (**Psalms 5:4; 45:7**); thus, He hates its consequences—eternal wickedness in hell. God does not want people to remain wicked forever in eternal remorse and hatred of Himself. Yet, God, for His own glory, and to manifest that glory in wrath, chose to endure "vessels ... prepared for destruction" for the supreme fulfillment of His will (**Romans 9:22**). In His eternal purpose, He chose only the

elect out of the world (**John 17:6**) and passed over the rest, leaving them to the consequences of their sin, unbelief, and rejection of Christ (cf. **Romans 1:18–32**). Ultimately, God's choices are determined by His sovereign, eternal purpose, not His desires. See note on **2 Peter 3:9. the knowledge of the truth**. Meaning "to be saved." See note on **2 Timothy 3:7**. * The MacArthur Study Bible 1997 Word, Thomas Nelson *

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me never question You and Your eternal wisdom and plan; but as You have commanded me, place my total faith and trust in You.

FRIDAY –In **verses 17-18** we read of Paul's longing to see these people whom he looked at as would a Father and Mother (**2:7, 11**). Paul says that he and his co-laborers had "been taken away from you...in presence, not in heart..." This episode of being "taken away" is found recorded for us in **Acts 17:1-10**. Even though Paul had been forcefully "taken" and felt he had orphaned the Thessalonians in a sense (Greek - aporphanizo –to bereave of a parent or parents), he nevertheless was still with them "in heart". He still prayed for them (**1:2, 3:9-13**) and was burdened with the thoughts of their spiritual needs and he therefore "endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire." So he wanted to come to them but as we read in the text, "...Satan hindered us." Satan, the "adversary" was in this case and is today out to "hinder" (egkopto --to cut into, to impede one's course by cutting off his way) any progress of God's church and the fruitful work of God's people. His work against the Kingdom of God is relentless and intricate and we will look at in God willing in greater detail this coming Lord's Day. Some of his ways of attack are found in the following verses: **Matthew 13:19, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 Peter 5:8**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, protect me from the adversary of my soul; and lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil and the evil one by Your great power.

SATURDAY –In **verses 19-20** we see Paul look past the trials and disappointments of this life and labor among God's people. He anticipates Christ's "parousia" (presence, coming, arrival, advent, return). It is then that overwhelming victory will be experienced for believers in Jesus as all of God's people will be united not just spiritually but even physically, to be together with our Savior forever (**4:13-18**). Paul, in affirming and encouraging the Thessalonians also speaks to the reality of the fact there is eternal reward and joy given to God's people in the eternal state who labor for Him and make eternal friendships through the sharing of the Gospel. Read **Luke 12:32-34, 16:9, Revelation 22:12**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Jesus, help me work fervently, anticipating Your coming.