

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Living in the Light of His Return: Triumph and Tragedy

¹³ For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews, ¹⁵ who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, ¹⁶ hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

I. The Triumph of Belief (v.13-14) – ¹³ For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,

II. The Tragedy of Unbelief (v.15-16) – the Jews, ¹⁵ who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, ¹⁶ hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you think of an example when the same sermon/lesson had totally opposite results for the people listening?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Knowing about the pagan culture in which the Thessalonians lived, what are some ways that their acceptance of the gospel is considered such a triumph (Eph. 2:12)?
- Knowing the background and advantages of the Jews, why is the rejection of unbelieving Jews such a tragedy (Rom. 9:4-5)?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul states in vs.13, “you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men but *for* what it really is, the word of God.”
- Explain how the Word can be “of God” at the same time it is “heard from us” (Apostles).
- What does it mean that we “accept” the Word of God?

- See vs. 15-16. What are some of the ways that unbelieving Jews demonstrated their rejection of “the Word of God”?
- What are/will be the results of their rejection?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Does God hold people accountable for what they know and reject?

5. Application Question(s):

- Is there someone that you could share a recorded sermon with this week?

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