

# 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

## The word at work

### Points to Consider

1. Giving the word
2. Teaching the word
3. Living the word

### Giving the word

**1 Thess 2:13** *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, 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, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

The word that Paul preached to the Thessalonians was the word of **God**.

Since the message is from God it is important that we listen to it and **live** it.

It is important to know the **difference** between what is from God and what is from men.

**1 Peter 1:22-25** *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. NKJV*

It's God's word that lives and abides **forever**.

**Col 3:12-17** *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. NKJV*

It is the word of **Christ** that dwells in us and enables us to teach and admonish one another in song.

**2 Tim 3:14-17** *But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. NKJV*

Scripture comes from God and makes us **complete** and equips us for every good work.

**2 Peter 1:19-21** *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. NKJV*

Scripture was written by men, but it came from **God!**

**Heb 4:12-13** *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* NKJV

The word of God is living and powerful. It **judges** our hearts.

Remember at the end of the sermon on the mount, the people were amazed at the teachings of Christ.

## Teaching the word

People teaching people is God's plan of spreading His word.

In 2 Peter 2:5 **Noah** is called a preacher of righteousness.

Matt 12:41 declares that the people of Nineveh **repented** at the preaching of Jonah.

**1 Thess 2:9** *For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.* NKJV

Paul, Timothy and Silas **preached** the gospel of God to the Thessalonians.

The word "preach" means to "herald" or "proclaim."

**Matt 28:18-20** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.* NKJV

**Mark 16:15-17** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.* NKJV

We make disciples of people by **teaching** them or preaching to them.

The old KJV translates the words "make disciples" as teach, since teaching is the foundation of making disciples.

**Acts 8:4-8** *Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.* NKJV

When the persecution arose in Acts 8, those who were scattered went **everywhere** preaching the word (of God).

Philip went to Samaria and **preached** Christ to them.

**Rom 10:11-15** *For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? NKJV*

Preaching is an **essential** part of God's plan to save people.

**2 Tim 2:1-2** *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*  
NKJV

Paul told Timothy to teach people so they can teach **others**.

## Living the word

In verse 13 we learned that message Paul preached was effectively working in those who believed.

**1 Thess 2:14-20** *For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, 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, 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. 17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. 18 Therefore we wanted to come to you — even I, Paul, time and again — but Satan hindered us. 19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.* NKJV

Paul has already reminded the Thessalonians that he lived in such a way not to **hinder** their reception of the message he was preaching. He labored day and night not to be a burden to them.

The proclaimers of the message must be **doers** of the message.

The proclaimers of the message must be **lovers** of the recipients of the message.

The word was effectively working in them by allowing them to **persevere** through suffering.

**James 1:22-25** *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*  
NKJV

In addition to hearing the word, we **must** do what it says!

Do you accept the Bible as God's word and not man's word?

Do you put God's word into action?