

Why Was Paul Thankful?

# 1 Thes.2

- Paul's second preaching trip
- Run out of town (Thessalonica)
- Falsely accused
- Unable to return
- So...why thankful?

**I. Paul was Thankful  
Without Ceasing, 13a-b**

## Without ceasing – (as 1:2)

- They received word of God
- Paul thanked God in everything, 5:18
- Some find a way to complain in everything
- He was thankful for his brethren, 13b

I. Paul was thankful without ceasing

**II.** Why was Paul Thankful  
for Thessalonians?

# Paul gives thanks because . . .

## 1. They received word of God, 13

- *it* and *as* in italics
- “Which”: word of God [power: effective]
- They knew it was the word of God (gospel): 1:5; 2:2, 4, 8, 9

“How we treat our Bible  
shows how we regard Christ’

# Paul gives thanks because . . .

1. They received word of God, 13

2. It worked in them, 13

- Faith changes people. Hb.11. 1 Thes.
- Lazy faith is dead. Ja.2; Gal.5
- *Work*: present tense; continuous action...
  - 1 Th.2:13, received Word . . . of God

How? – **from us**

Of God – **Who? Author**

▪ 2 K.22:11 = Jer.36

▪ Ac.2:37 . . . (5:33; 7:54)

# Paul gives thanks because . . .

1. They received word of God, 13
2. It worked in them, 13
3. They became imitators of churches in Judea, 14.
  - 1:6, imitated Paul – lightning rod for rejection and persecution
  - “You suffered by own countrymen...”
  - Suffering makes good salt

# About the Jews . . .

1. Misanthropists, not philanthropists, 15a-b
2. Kept Paul from brethren, 16. Ac.17:5-9
3. Described as 'haters of human race.'
4. Sin grew out of arrogance ("chosen people")
5. Separated Thessalonians from Paul, 17
6. Hindered Paul, 16, 18 [16 – cf. 1:4, election]

## Jews . . . hindered Paul, 16, 18

- 16: **Jews** *hinder, prevent, forbid*. Mt.19:14; Gn.15:16; Mt.23:32
- 18: **satan** hinders, thwarts. Purpose –
  - **Prevent** word from ... target, 2:18; 1 Pt.3:7
  - **Remove** word after it hits target, Gal.5:7

## Jews . . . hindered Paul, 16, 18

- Satan's purpose: put obstacles in the way.
- Our job: overcome. 1 Jn.5:4
- Conflict began in Gn.3:15: **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.**

# Paul, the orphan

- Their mother, 7
- Their father, 11-12
- Their brother, 14
- Paul, orphaned from his children, 17  
(he was taken away). (Ac.17:7-10)
  - Out of sight; not out of mind

“Separation was an absence of faces,  
not a cleavage of hearts” – Tarazi. (3:10)

- He makes every effort to see them, 17
- “With great desire”

# Why does the gospel stir up persecution?

- It is narrow. One way. Jn.14:6
- Convicts sinners of sin. Ac.2:37
- Forgives sinners who repent. Lk.15:2

# Paul gives thanks because . . .

1. They received word of God, 13.
2. It worked in them, 13.
3. They became imitators of churches in Judea, 14.
4. They are his hope, joy, crown of boasting, 19
  - Did Paul go around boasting?
    - For churches, 2:19
    - For cross, Ga.6:14
  - Paul's glory / joy, 19-20 (Mt.16:26)

# Paul's glory, joy, 19-20

- Persecution discourages; faithful brothers make it worthwhile
- Crown of boasting... Paul expects to know his converts in the great day and to rejoice with them
- Chrysostom ... Macedonia
- Perspective

# The sail and the soul

One ship drives east and another west,  
With the selfsame winds that blow.

'Tis the set of the sails And not the gales  
Which tells us the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate,  
As we voyage along through life:

'Tis the set of the soul That decides the goal,  
And not the calm or the strife.