

THE WORD OF GOD

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:5

Devotional Reading: Psalm 121

Background Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:5

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- **Summarize** Paul’s concerns regarding the believers in Thessalonica
- **Compare** and *contrast* the Jews and Gentiles as Paul describes them in the lesson text
- **Commit** to offering Christian encouragement to a fellow believer in the week ahead

INTRODUCTION: Paul’s first letter to Thessalonica was addressed to a church with a large Jewish population and an active synagogue. Here, Paul could speak and reach his fellow Jews as well as a large number of Gentiles, who were called “God-fearers”. These God-fearers had accepted Scripture’s religious and moral vision without converting to Judaism. Some people in every age dislike the Gospel and oppose it. The things they say haven’t changed from the first century. Paul’s love for the Thessalonians is evident - - a love so great that it moved him to work to support himself as he ministered there. That love moved Paul to pray for them constantly now that he has left.

KEY VERSE *13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*
1 Thessalonians 2:13 / KJV

LESSON:

Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - 16

SUMMARY: There were personal benefits for Paul in his ministry. What made him happiest was that when Christ returns, Paul will be able to present believers to the Lord. Joy is produced by the Holy Spirit. It is often linked in Scripture, with God’s work in fellow believers whom we love. Paul reminded the church that trials are certain. Our response to those trials, however, are not. Paul knows that we have the freedom to respond wrongly as well as wisely. What a relief when we see that those we care about make the right choices.

QUESTIONS:

1. *Considering that the Bible is the Word of God, how do you approach your study of the Bible?*
2. *How do you handle situations when your plans or desires are thwarted or delayed? Consider James 4:13 – 17 as you think about your answer.*
3. *How can you resist temptations that would draw you away from Christ?*

THE WORD OF GOD
1 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:5

DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
<i>Mon., July 29th</i>	Promise of Hope	1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18
<i>Tue., July 30th</i>	Encourage One Another	Hebrews 10:19 - 25
<i>Wed., July 31st</i>	A Joyous Celebration	2 Chronicles 30:21 - 27
<i>Thurs., Aug. 1st</i>	Two Are Better than One	Ecclesiastes 4:7 - 12
<i>Fri., Aug. 2nd</i>	Bear One Another’s Burdens	Galatians 6:1 - 10
<i>Sat., Aug. 3rd</i>	My Help Comes from the Lord	Psalm 121
<i>Sun., Aug. 4th</i>	Encouraged in Faith	1 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:5