

Paul's Thankfulness for the Thessalonians!

Unstoppable, Pt. 4

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

January 28, 2024

1 Thessalonians 1:6, You became *imitators* of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. **7** And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 2:17, But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. **18** For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way.

Why Was Paul So Thankful For the Thessalonians?

1. Because of Their SALVATION

1 Thessalonians 2:13, And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it...

Romans 10:14, How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15** And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

2. Because They Had a High View of SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 2:13, ... you received the word of God... you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

2 Timothy 3:14, But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:21, For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 19:8, The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. **9** The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. **10** They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

Psalms 119:105, Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

3. Because They Did Not Stop in the Face of OPPOSITION

1 Thessalonians 2:14, For you, brothers and sisters, became **imitators** of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You **suffered from your own people** the same things those churches suffered from the Jews **15** who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone **16** in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

2 Timothy 3:12, In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

1 John 4:4, You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Matthew 5:10, Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4. Because They Were His Glory and JOY

1 Thessalonians 2:19, For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? **Is it not you?** **20** Indeed, you are our **glory and joy**.