

Lessons From I Thessalonians

The Word Of God

(I Th 2:13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we examined “A Preacher Worthy Of Duplicating.”
 - i. In this we noticed how Paul, a preacher for the church of Christ, was one whom could be seen as an example for other preachers to follow.
 - b. This week we are going to look at “The Word Of God.”
 - i. **I Th 2:13** “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”
3. There are two questions answered here in this text by Paul concerning the Thessalonians and God’s Word.
 - a. How did they get the Bible?
 - b. What did the Bible do for them?

I. How Did They Get The Word Of God?

- A. The Thessalonians heard the Word through God’s apostles and disciples
 1. **I Th 2:13** “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received **the word of God, which you heard from us...**”¹ (emphasis mine)
- B. The process God used to give everyone His Word the Bible
 1. The Father gave His Word to His Son
 - i. **Jn 8:28** “So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”
 - ii. **Jn 12:49** “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.”
 2. The Son gave God’s Word to the Holy Spirit
 - i. **Jn 16:13** “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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3. The Holy Spirit gave God's Word to the apostles and disciples to write.
 - i. **Jn 14:26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."
 - a. **I Co 14:37** "If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord."
 - ii. **Lk 1:1-4** "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."
 4. God used providence to preserve His Word in writing for all mankind.
 - i. One has to look no further than at the way the inspired letters were so meticulously kept century after century.
 - ii. Though no original MSS exist today the copies we have are so numerous and so similar, less than a 1% difference mostly dealing with punctuation, that it cannot be anything but providence being seen.
- C. Thus...
1. Like the Thessalonians we can be assured that the Bible is truly the Word of God.
 - i. **II Ti 3:16** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"

II. What Does The Word Of God Do?

- A. The Word of God worked in the Thessalonians
 1. **I Th 2:13** "...you received the word of God...which is at work in you believers."
- B. The Word works in believers...
 1. By giving birth to Christians.
 - i. **I Pt 1:23** "since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"
 2. By saving the believers soul.
 - i. **Ja 1:21** "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
 3. By sanctifying them.
 - i. **Jn 17:17** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
 4. By being living and active.
 - i. **He 4:12** "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

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5. By being a guide against all things false.
 - i. **II Co 10:4-5** “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ”
 - ii. **Je 23:29** “Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”
 6. By being light in darkness.
 - i. **Ps 119:105** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
 7. By being the sole weapon of the Christians warfare.
 - i. **Ep 6:17** “and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”
- C. Thus...
1. Like the Thessalonians we too can have comfort knowing how the Word of God works in us.

CONCLUSION

- 1.