

Accepting or Rejecting the GOOD NEWS

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Psalm 2

1 Corinthians 1:18-31



Do We Believe the Bible Is God's Word?

- Do we really believe that all of the Bible is TRUE?
- If we truly believe that all this is true and the very Word of God, then logically speaking we would be serious students of it and doers of all that it says?
- If we are not serious students and doers of this Word then we really cannot say that we believe it to be true.
- If we are not serious students and doers of God's Word then we believe that our opinion is truth and that is blasphemy!!!!

Are We Doers of God's Word?

- Did I download the 476 commands found in Romans-Jude from our website so that I can know what God demands/commands?
- Do I believe that ignoring a command of God is sin?
- Do I believe that giving an excuse why I cannot obey a command of God is sin?
- Have I believed Satan's lie that I need not be concerned with God's commandments since Jesus died for all my sins? (cf. 1 John 2:3-4)
- Can one get to heaven while ignoring what God commands/demands? (Matt 7:21; 12:50; Luke 11:28; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 3:21-24; Psalm 112:1)
- Can one walk as Christ walked without doing what pleases God? (John 8:29; Colossians 1:10; Hebrews 13:21)
- Can I expect God to answer my prayers without keeping His commandments? (1 John 3:22)
- Can I say I love God while ignoring His commandments? (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 13-14; 1 John 5:1-3)

The Gospel of God

- Paul mentions the **GOSPEL of GOD** eight times in his two letters to the Thessalonians.

- Gospel literally means "good news". News is only good if I am in a bad situation.
- The Bible tells us that **the** Gospel is from God.
- Why is the Gospel good news from God? Everyone is born . . .
 - . . . **DEAD** in our sins - everyone! (Romans 3:10-18, 23; Eph 2:1-5)
 - . . . a **SLAVE** to the world, Satan, sin, and their own lusts/desires. (Eph 2:1-3). We are born in bondage - our minds, wills and emotions. (John 9:24-25; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 4:18)
 - . . . an **ENEMY** of God. (Romans 5:10; 8:7-8) And God has promised His vengeance on His enemies. (Naham 1:1-3)
 - . . . a child of **WRATH** with God's wrath (not His love) abiding on them. (Eph 2:3; John 3:38)
 - . . . destined for **HELL**. (Luke 13:1-5)
 - . . . with absolute **NO ABILITY** to do anything to save themselves from the wrath of God. (Romans 5:6; Luke 18:26-27)
 - . . . in **DEBT** and adding to that debt every day with no ability to pay it off or reduce it in any way! (Matthew 6:12; 18:21-32)
- **BUT the GOOD NEWS is that through the WORKS of JESUS CHRIST and through GOD's GRACE . . .**
 - ★ (Romans 6:23) One is given the GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE. This life has two characteristics:
 - ① Quantity - it is for ever.
 - ② Quality - it transforms the recipient into a NEW CREATURE. (2 Corinthians 5:17) One is transformed . . .
 - ★ Into a **SLAVE/SERVANT/STEWARD** of Christ who now wants to please God in all that he/she does. (Colossians 1:10; **2 Cor 5:9**; Hebrews 13:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; **1 John 2:3-6; 3:3-10**)
 - ☆ Into a **SLAVE of RIGHTEOUSNESS for HOLINESS** (as defined by God) rather than a slave of sin. (Romans 6:18-20) Disobedient to Obedient. (John 10:27-28)
 - ★ Into one who is now at **PEACE with GOD!** (Romans 5:1; Acts 10:36; Ephesians 2:14-17; Colossians 1:20)
 - ☆ Into a **CHILD/FRIEND** of God who now practices the righteousness of God and hates sin. (**1 John 3:1-10; John 15:13-5**)
 - ★ Into a vessel of God's **MERCY** rather than His wrath. (Romans 9:23; Ephesians 2:4-5)
 - ☆ Into a citizen of Heaven rather than Hell. (Philip 3:20-21)
 - ★ Into one who has had ALL of his/her **DEBT** blotted out. (Isaiah 43:25, 44:22; Jeremiah 50:20; Micah 7:18-19)

★ **UNLESS ONE IS BORN-AGAIN/FROM ABOVE (STARTS ALL OVER) HE/SHE WILL NEVER GET TO HEAVEN.** (John 1:12-13; 3:1-8)

- Though we may not express it or feel it we are HOSTILE towards God. (Romans 8:7)
- As long as we are unbelievers GOD is an ENEMY to us. (Psalm 5:5; 7:11)

Those Who Accept the Gospel of God (vv. 13-14)

- Thessalonika was very much like the world today.
 - It was a major city and a cross roads for trade and commerce.
 - It attracted many philosophers and so, the Thessalonians heard MUCH in the area of the wisdom (opinions) of men.
 - It was a center for pagan worship.
 - It was a place of high immorality – sin.
- **WHAT WAS TRUTH? WHAT IS TRUTH TODAY?**
- **IS TRUTH WHAT I THINK IT IS – HUMAN OPINION? or**
- **IS THE BIBLE WHAT IT SAYS IT IS – THE WORD OF GOD.**
- Paul gives three reasons why he is thankful about the believers in Thessalonika:
 - ① They willingly (freely) **RECEIVED** the Word of God. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - The missionaries spoke a message that came from God.
 - “the word of God” is much different from the word of man.
 - Human wisdom really is only human opinion.
 - The Greek word for “to receive” has the idea of receiving a message OBJECTIVELY – based on facts and logic.
 - After receiving (OBJECTIVELY) the Word of God the Thessalonians **welcomed or accepted** it for what it really was.
 - The Greek word for “to welcome” or “to accept” has the meaning to receive the message **inwardly** or “into the heart” (SUBJECTIVELY)
 - Christianity is an INTELLIGENT system. First, one must receive in their HEAD (mind) (OBJECTIVE), and then receive into their hearts (SUBJECTIVELY). In so doing these become DOERS of the word.
 - The Word of God **WORKS IN** (changes) those who believe:
 - ① The Word of God SAVES sinners. (1 Tim 3:15; 4:16)
 - ② The Word of God PURIFIES or CLEANSSES. (John 17:3; 15:3)
 - ③ The Word of God PERFECTS or MATURES. (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - ④ The Word of God COUNSELS. (Psalm 119:24)
 - ⑤ The Word of God BUILDS. (Acts 20:32)
 - ⑥ The Word of God leads to PROSPERING in the way. (Joshua 1:8-9; Psalm 1:2-3; **19:10-11**)
 - ⑦ The Word of God gives HOPE. (Psalm 119:147; Acts 20:32)

- ② The Thessalonians became **IMITATORS** of the true Christians.
 - They **IMITATED** other saints. (Hebrews 12:1; 6:11-12; 1 Thess 1:6)
 - They became imitators of Paul as he imitated Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - ★ Can we say to others, “Imitate me just as I imitate Christ.”
- ③ The Thessalonians **PERSEVERED** in the midst of SUFFERING.
 - To accept the Gospel is to WALK a DIFFERENT path than the majority. (Matthew 7:13-14) That path is a DIFFICULT path.
 - To accept the Gospel is to invite/receive/accept PERSECUTION. (2 Tim 3:12; Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29; **John 15:20; 1 Peter 4:12-16**)
 - Jesus tells those who wish to be His disciples to “**count the cost.**” (Luke 14:28)

Those Who Reject the Gospel of God (vv. 15-16)

- In contrast to those who ACCEPTED the Word **of God** Paul points to those who REJECT the Word **of God**.
- Unbelievers (when faced with the TRUTHS of the Word of God) are **HOSTILE** toward it.
 - Jesus promised, “If they hate Me, they will hate you.” (John 7:7; 15:18 –20 consider John 15:23)
- To REJECT Jesus (and the prophets) is to REJECT the Word of God. (John 1:1; Luke 10:16; John 12:48; 1 Thessalonians 4:8)
 - Rejecting Jesus is rejecting the **Good News from God**.
 - Rejecting the Gospel of God is rejecting God’s **ONLY** offer of PEACE.
 - Rejecting the Gospel is a choice to remain HOSTILE towards God.
- Those who REJECT actually are working against God in hindering the message of peace to spread out to the world.
- BUT in the END they will suffer the WRATH of GOD! (John 3:36; Rom. 1:8)

“Kiss the Son!”

(Psalm 2:12; Matthew 3:7)

- TODAY you are presented with the Gospel of God. What will you do with it?
- IS THE WORD OF GOD **WORKING IN YOU?**