

First Thessalonians 2:13-16
The Flock's Faithfulness
Paul's Reminiscences—1:2-2:16
Personal Comments—1:1-3:13

- 1) Thanking God through prayer for positive responses to God's Word—2:13
 - a) What? ¹³ *Therefore **we** (emphatic) also constantly thank [eucharisteo] God*
 - b) Why? *because when you^{pl} (objectively) received [paralambano] the word of God that you^{pl} heard from us, you^{pl} (subjectively) welcomed [dechomai] it*
 - i) Negatively—*not as the word of men*
 - ii) Positively—*but as it truly is, the word of God, which is operating [energeo] in you^{pl} who are (characterized by) trusting.*
 - (1) Paul knew his teaching was from God.
 - iii) The Word of God is the immediate tangible object of saving faith. (McCune)
 - (1) Cf. John 17:20; Romans 10:17
 - (2) “The self-authenticating Word of God had performed its work of convicting and convincing them of the truth of Paul's message (cf. 1Co 2:4-5; Col 1:6).” (Moody Bible Commentary)
 - iv) God is the ultimate object of saving faith
 - (1) Cf. Romans 4:24; 10:9-10
 - c) What is **my** attitude toward the teaching of God's Word? Do I consistently “put out the welcome mat” for the Word?
- 2) Thanking God through prayer for the willingness of believers to suffer—2:14-16 ¹⁴ *For **you^{pl}** (emphatic) became imitators (cf. 1:6), brothers, of the congregations of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea,*
 - a) What did their imitation look like? *because **you^{pl}** (emphatic) suffered the same things from your^{pl} own (Gentile) countrymen, just as they did from the Jews,*
 - b) What did the Jewish leaders do to deserve God's wrath?
 - i) Murder—¹⁵ *who killed both **the Lord** (emphatic) Jesus and their own prophets*
 - (1) Cf. Matthew 21:35-39; Mark 12:5-8; Luke 20:9-16
 - ii) Persecution—*and chased us out, (cf. Acts 17:5-10)*
 - iii) Displeasing to God—*and they are not pleasing to God*
 - iv) Contrariness—*and are opposed to all people,*
 - (1) Hindering evangelism—¹⁶ *hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they might be rescued, (cf. Acts 18:6)*
 - v) Increased wickedness—*so as always to fill up the measure of their sins.*
 - c) But God will judge—*But wrath has come upon them completely.*
 - i) Difficult to identify this wrath: Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD? Tribulation period? Eternal wrath?