

In the second half of chapter 2, Paul continues his expression of gratitude for the church in Thessalonica. He articulates specific thankfulness for their imitation of other Christians who are following Jesus and His Word. His heart for the believers there is clearly evident, giving readers today a wonderful picture of what authentic fellowship looks like with those bound together in the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians

2:13-20

Accepting

God's

Word

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

It can be hard to make friends. In a world full of acquaintances, deep seeded friendship is difficult to establish, primarily because it takes time and experiences. Having relationships that are galvanized in experiences, difficult or celebratory, and that are rooted in a like-mindedness of faith, tend to be extraordinary, and sometimes have an impact, leaving lasting impressions on those who see them lived out.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW would you characterize or describe the closest relationships in your life that are NOT family members?

HOW does sharing life-values with other people effect the depth of your friendship?

HAVE you experienced a change in friend groups due to your affiliation with Jesus and His church?

CAN you **DESCRIBE** a change in how you face trials as a Christian as opposed to before you followed Jesus?

1 Thessalonians

2:13-20

Accepting God's Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

OBSERVATION

What does Paul specifically give thanks for in vs. 13?

How did those in Thessalonica receive the Word?

Who does Paul say those in Thessalonica imitated?

In vs. 14, what was the audience of Paul's letter experiencing?

List the accusations Paul describes against the Jews in vs. 15-16, and describe God's response to them (vs. 16).

How does Paul describe his separation from the believers in Thessalonica?

Why was Paul unable to see those in Thessalonica, according to vs. 18?

In vs. 19-20, how does Paul describe those in Thessalonica?

INTERPRETATION

What is the difference between receiving something (vs. 13) and accepting it (vs 13)?

What was the significance of how those in Thessalonica accepted the Word? Consider vs. 14 and 1:6-7.

Explain what Paul means when he shares that he, Silas, and Timothy were "torn away" from the believers in Thessalonica, "In person, but not in heart" (vs. 17).

Why was Paul even more eager (vs. 17) to see to see the believers in Thessalonica? What does this say about their relationship with each other?

How did Satan hinder Paul's coming to the Thessalonians (vs. 18)? Consider Acts 17:1-14.

Why does Paul refer to his friends in Thessalonica the way he does in vs. 19-20?

APPLICATION

How would you say you're receiving God's Word in your life?

Do you long to be with the family of God? How would you explain your response?