



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series
Supports Session 3: Confronted
Sermon Title: Changed by the Gospel!
Passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Connection to 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

When the message of the gospel is shared, a person's heart is confronted with the truth of the gospel. This can result in conviction, forgiveness, and a changed life.

Introduction/Opening

The Declaration of Independence begins with the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident.” Yet today, we fear that some could never hold to any sort of firm truth. This is especially clear when we look at social media; often truth is hidden in the clatter of personal opinions.

But truth still stands, and we see truth—real truth—in the Word of God. In God's Word, we can see the truth about Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection. We can see His true invitation to a new life, and His true promise of an abundant life in Him. We can see the true desperation of the sick in the gospels and their true healing and response to the One who heals all, inside and out. We see the true power of the Spirit in the book of Acts, the true response of the church to persecution, and the true future new heaven and new earth as shown in the book of Revelation. God's Word is truth.

Outline

1. The message of the Word
 - Paul shared how thankful they were that the Thessalonians received the gospel. What was it about the message that changed those new believers?
 - a. The Word is truth.
 - i. It was a message from God. The Word is God-breathed, life-changing, and without error.
 - ii. See 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - b. The Word points to Jesus.
 - i. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 reads, “All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.”¹
 - ii. See Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 24:44-46.

¹ Southern Baptist Convention, “Baptist Faith and Message, 2000,” Statement of Faith, August 28, 2021, <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000>.

2. The working of the Word
 - a. The truth about Jesus works in the hearts of the hearers.
 - i. The Thessalonians who heard the gospel message had something special happen: the gospel was burning in their hearts.
 - ii. This is the same response that is seen in Luke 24:32, when the two disciples on the way to Emmaus had an encounter with Jesus and recalled their heart reaction.
 - iii. But this response demands action, and the Word transforms those who receive it.
 - b. The truth about Jesus is the gospel.
 - i. Everyone can be changed by the gospel.
 - ii. Those who receive Jesus Christ have eternal life. They have forgiveness for their sins. They have redemption guaranteed by the Son of God, Jesus.
 - iii. The Word reveals a new way to us.
 1. Jesus is the only way (John 14:6).
 2. Jesus prayed for us in John 17:17, “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”
 3. The Word works in the believers once they come to Christ.
3. The effect of the Word
 - a. The Word changes lives.
 - i. Those who receive are changed forever: they are never the same again.
 - ii. See 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:4; Revelation 21:5a.
 - b. The Word builds up the body of Christ.
 - i. See Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 15:4; Colossians 2:1-3.
 - ii. All ministry is based on both love and truth, and all truth is based on the Word, so that all who encounter the bride of Christ—the church—will see Christ in us.
 - iii. It affects our attitudes, our conduct, our practices, our home lives, our workplaces, our worship, and our interactions within and outside the fellowship.

Conclusion

As we have heard, God does a miraculous work through the receiving of His Word, working in the hearts of people, and having a life-changing effect for eternity.

But here’s the big question everyone needs to ask: am I in a place where I know for sure that I have a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ? Have I turned to Christ for forgiveness of my sins? Have I been dry in my walk, living like I never knew Jesus in the first place?

Friends, today is the time for change. Receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. Be changed by the gospel. Turn to Him today!

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