

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20 — AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Homework for Session 5 — Nov 10, 2021

FOR THE LEADERS

> In 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20, the Apostle continues to express his thankfulness, affection and concern for the young church he was forced to abruptly leave. We'll look at the passage in three parts:

> v 13 expresses Paul's thankfulness for the Thessalonians welcoming the gospel as the authentic word of God and not as the word of men.

> vv 14-16 express Paul's thankfulness for their steadfastness in suffering for the gospel, thus "imitating" the churches in Judea who also had been persecuted by the Jews.

> vv 17-20 express Paul's deep longing to see the believers again as they had become his "crown of glory" in the presence of Christ at His coming.

> Be sure your group has a basic grasp of the text (above). The key questions for discussion are #4 and #5 magnifying the power of Scripture in our lives, and #13 and #14 which highlight the genuine love and joy that should exist between believers and their shepherds.

BY WAY OF REVIEW

1 Complete the following and briefly summarize:

> 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 focuses on the church's _____

> 1 Thessalonians 1: 8-10 focuses on the church's _____

> 1 Thessalonians 2: 1–8 focuses on Paul’s defense of his integrity regarding

> 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-12 focuses on Paul’s defense of his integrity regarding

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

2 Read the second chapter of 1 Thessalonians daily to prepare for your study.

3 From v 13, define received (Strong’s 3880) and accepted or welcomed (Strong’s #1209).

> Strong’s #3880 receive (Gk. *paralambano*):

> Strong’s #1209 welcome (Gk. *dechomai*):

4 In verse 13, notice the emphasis on the Word of God rather than the preachers. Look up the following verses and record what you learn from Scripture attesting to the power of God’s word at work in your life:

> 1 Thessalonians 2:13

> Isaiah 5:11

> Jeremiah 23:29

> Colossians 1:4-6

> Hebrews 4:12-13

> James 1:21

> 1 Peter 1:23, 25

5 Can you give an example from your life of how you “welcomed” the Word for what it really is— the Word of God? What are some ways you have seen the Scripture change you?

6 Who had the Thessalonians imitated in how they received the gospel? In what way?

7 Read vv 14-16 and answer the following questions about the Jews:

> What had the Jews done?

> To what end?

8 In v 16 Paul said that the Jews always “fill up the measure of their sins.” Look up the following verses for additional insight and then explain what this phrase means.

Genesis 15:16;

Matthew 23:32;

Romans 2:4-8;

2 Peter 3:7-9.

9 What were the circumstances surrounding Paul and his missionary team being separated from the Thessalonian believers? See Acts 17:5-10.

10 In vv 17-18, Paul says “we were torn away from you... (but) not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face...” (ESV). What reason does he give for their separation?

11 Though Satan hindered, what truths did Paul understand? See Genesis 50:20;

Psalm 46:1-2;

Romans 8:28; and

2 Corinthians 4:15-17.

12 How are these truths a comfort to you as you encounter obstacles and hindrances in your life?

13 How does Paul describe his love for the Thessalonians (vv 19-20)?

14 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5 gives more insight into why Paul says the Thessalonians are his “crown of glory” before our Lord Jesus at His coming.” What do you learn?

15 Who will be your joy in the presence of Jesus at His coming? And what is the point of rejoicing in the changed lives of believers at Christ’s return?