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| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**  Chapter 2:13–16 |  |

1. Read (see “Short Guide for Bible Study” handout for tips)
2. Recognize and Research
   1. Trace Paul’s flow of thought in this passage.
   2. Identify key terms / thoughts for further study. (Suggestions: compare “received” and “accepted” (v. 13); research “word of God”; who are the Jews in v. 14?; research “wrath”)
   3. Identify the various ways in 1 Thessalonians that Paul refers to his apostolic message
   4. What is the key contrast in v. 13?
   5. Note how Paul refers to the church: “the churches of God in Christ Jesus.” Why didn’t he just say “the church in Judea”?
   6. How did Paul and his associates know that the Thessalonnian believers had rightly appraised his message?
   7. Specifically identify the distinct phrases Paul uses to describe “the Jews”
   8. What are the historical circumstances behind Paul’s comments in vv. 15–16? How do Paul’s words here contrast / compare with his perspective toward “the Jews” in other portions of the NT?
3. Relate and Reflect
   1. What themes in vv. 13–16 are connected with other portions in this letter? Note any specific connections from earlier verses, then note connections that are later in the letter.
   2. What else does the NT teach us about rightly appraising (e.g., receiving and accepting/approving) the Word of God?
   3. What does the OT teach us about rightly appraising (e.g., receiving and accepting/approving) the Word of God?
   4. The Thessalonian believers proved their faith in the message through suffering: can you find other places in the NT that specifically connect endurance through suffering with faith in God’s Word?
   5. How do Paul’s comments here inform our Bibliology (doctrine of Scripture)? Our understanding of Sanctification? Our theology of preaching? Note any other implications from the theological focal point of this passage.
   6. How do Paul’s comments about the Jews fit into the storyline of Scripture? How does this passage inform our understanding of their rejection of God’s messengers, God’s Word, and God’s judgment on them?
4. Respond
   1. How do we receive the Word today? What does this passage imply about our practices of hearing/receiving the Word of God?
   2. How would you describe the difference between appreciation of the Word and application of the Word? How can we tell when we are merely appreciating but not appropriating the Word of God?
   3. How do we demonstrate acceptance / appropriation of the Word of God in the context of persecution?