

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Welcome to your first homework for this semester of the Sermon Study Equipping Class! This new year will begin with a few topical sermons before Pastor Bret returns to 1 Corinthians for the majority of the semester. If you have not done so, **please be sure to read the Welcome Letter as we kick off the semester.** It will explain the more of the philosophy behind the class and let you know what to expect. Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

We also encourage you to go over the 1 Corinthians Overview Lesson at some point in the next couple of weeks before Pastor Bret's next 1 Corinthians sermon on January 29<sup>th</sup>. (This will be in addition to the regular weekly homework. It will not be discussed in class, but we believe the time you invest will enhance your overall studies in the book.)

All of our class handouts, including the Welcome Letter, Overview Lesson, and homework for each week, are available to download from the class website at [summitwoodschurch.org/sermonstudy](http://summitwoodschurch.org/sermonstudy).

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16.

<sup>13</sup>And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. <sup>14</sup>For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, <sup>15</sup>who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind <sup>16</sup>by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!

1 Thessalonians was written by Paul, along with Silas and Timothy, most likely from Corinth around 51 A.D. Read Acts 17:1-15 about the founding of the church in Thessalonica. Also read Matthew 23:29-37 and Acts 4:1-4, 4:23-31, and 7:51-8:5.

1. Describe the similarities you see in the sufferings experienced by the believers in Thessalonica and the believers in Judea.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe the similarities you see in how the believers in each city responded to persecution.

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3. Who is primarily at work and receives thanks in this week's passage?
4. For what does Paul thank God?
5. Paul says that they received the word of God through the teaching of Paul, Silas, and Timothy "not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God." Describe some things that distinguish preaching that is the word of God from preaching that is merely the word of men. (Be sure to think about the passages you read in Acts and what we have learned so far in 1 Corinthians.)
  - a. Looking at the example of the Bereans in Acts 17, how did they evaluate the teaching they heard before receiving it as God's word?

❖ Day 2

Read chapters 1-2 of 1 Thessalonians.

6. What evidence does Paul use to demonstrate that the Thessalonians had truly received the word of God?
7. 2:14 says that they "became imitators of the churches ... in Judea." Do you think this means that they intentionally sought out persecution?
8. In what ways did they imitate the churches in Judea?

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9. According 1 Thessalonians 1, who followed the example of the Thessalonians like the Thessalonians followed the Judeans?
10. Have you ever experienced discipleship from congregation to congregation and not just from person to person?
11. Describe some examples of what congregation-to-congregation discipleship might look like today.

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 again.

12. Paul acknowledges that there are those who seek to hinder the spread of the gospel. Do they ultimately succeed? How does our passage influence your answer?
13. According to verse 16, how are the Gentiles saved?
14. Therefore, how necessary is it for believers to keep preaching the gospel in the midst of persecution?
15. What is the ultimate outcome for those who oppose God, His word, and His church? From where in the text do you get your answer?

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16. How should this encourage us as the church to pray for our enemies? (see Matthew 5:43-44)

17. How should this encourage us as the church to endure opposition?

18. If God's word has been both opposed and received from the times of the prophets and Jesus and the early church, what should we expect when the gospel is preached today?

19. How much would you be willing to sacrifice if you thought that this was all just the word of men and not the word of God?

20. If we know that persecution will come along with receiving God's word, is it still worth it to preach and to sit under the preaching of the gospel? Explain. (see also Matthew 13:44-46)

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would receive God's word with joy, that it would bear fruit in our life together as a congregation, and that we would be a faithful example of loving and honoring our Lord.