

“Strength for the Battle”

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

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I. Introduction

- A. The church in Thessalonica was a model church
 - 1. An elect church (1:4)
 - 2. An evangelistic church (1:8)
 - 3. An expectant church (1:10)
- B. The church in Thessalonica had a model minister
 - 1. Paul was their pastor
 - 2. He was a faithful father
 - a) (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)
- C. So, they were a model church with a model pastor
 - 1. That doesn't mean life was easy for the Christians in Thessalonica
 - a) “Much affliction” (1:6)
 - b) “Suffered like things” (2:14)
 - c) “Persecuted us” (2:15)
 - d) “Satan hindered us” (2:18)
 - e) “That no man should be moved by these afflictions” (3:3)
 - 2. (2 Timothy 3:12)
 - 3. But God provides divine resources to give us strength for the battle
 - a) I want to point out three resources God gives to us to strengthen us in the battles we face

II. The Word of God Within Us (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

- A. The church in Thessalonica was born and founded, and the believers' lives were transformed by the Spirit of God through the preaching of the Word of God
 - 1. Paul was thankful to God that they were receptive to God's Word
 - 2. The best way to find strength in life's battles is to hide God's Word in your heart
 - a) “Worketh effectually in you” (v. 13)
 - b) It means that it performs its purpose
 - c) Is God's Word working effectually in you?
- B. Do you appreciate God's Word?
 - 1. “Not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God” (v. 13)
 - 2. The Bible is the Word of God
 - a) (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - 3. God still speaks through His Word
 - a) (Hebrews 4:12)
 - 4. God's Word, the Bible, is:
 - a) Perfect
 - 1) Comprehensive, converting the soul
 - b) Sure
 - 1) True
 - 2) Making wise the simple

- 3) Wisdom
- c) Right
 - 1) Rejoicing the heart
- d) Pure
 - 1) Enlightening the eyes
- e) Clean
 - 1) Enduring forever
- f) True
 - 1) Righteous altogether
- g) More desired than gold
 - 1) Pray and ask God to give you an appreciation for God's Word
- C. Do you absorb God's Word?
 - 1. "Ye received the Word of God" (v. 13)
 - a) Received it not as the word of men
 - 2. Paul used two different words for "received"
 - a) The first means "to accept from one another"
 - b) The second means "to welcome"
 - c) The first is to "hear with the ear" and the second is "to accept or embrace with the heart"
- D. Do you apply God's Word?
 - 1. "The word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (v. 13)
 - a) You must believe and obey God's Word
 - b) (James 1:22)

III. The People of God Around Us (1 Thessalonians 2:14-16)

- A. If you take a stand on God's Word, you will suffer in this world
 - 1. Paul seeks to encourage the saints by reminding them that they were not alone in their suffering
 - 2. Don't try to live the Christian life alone. You need to be part of a local fellowship
 - 3. We need one another
 - a) Love one another
 - 1) (John 13:34)
 - b) Wash one another's feet
 - 1) (John 13:14)
 - c) Edify one another
 - 1) (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - d) Bear one another's burdens
 - 1) (Galatians 6:2)
 - e) Forgive one another
 - 1) (Ephesians 4:32)
 - f) Show hospitality to one another
 - 1) (1 Peter 4:9)

IV. The Glory of God Before Us (1 Thessalonians 2:17-20)

- A. "But Satan hindered us" (v. 18)
 - 1. "To cut into"

2. How?
 - a) Jewish opposition
 - b) Prison
 - c) Paul's thorn in the flesh
3. God uses Satan's attacks to serve his own purpose
 - a) Illustration- Book of Job
4. What kept Paul strong in the battle
 - a) Paul's joy and strength in this world came from the hope of heaven (v. 19)
 - b) (Jude 24)