

The Word of God, Not Men (8/21/22)

Main Verses: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

'Takeaway': When we realize that the words of the Bible are really the words of God himself, it should cause us to listen even more carefully and live even more faithfully.

Getting Started: Who wrote the Bible?



READ 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What does it mean to receive the Word of God?
- What is the apostle Paul saying about the message preached to the people here?
- How does God's Word work in us?

Elementary:

- Why are Paul and his companions thanking God for them?
- Look at Hebrews 4:12. What does it tell us about the Word of God?
- How does God's Word work in our lives? What does it mean to receive the Word of God?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- The Thessalonians put their trust in God and in his word even though it led them to be mistreated by some.
- Paul is thankful for their faithfulness in accepting the word preached as the very word of God (which it was).
- God's word, along with believing in him, changes our lives. It helps us to see things differently, as God sees them, instead of in a selfish, self-focused way.

Elementary:

- The Thessalonians were being persecuted for their trust in God and his word.
- Paul is thankful for their faithfulness and perseverance, seeing them as further evidence of their election (see 1 Thessalonians 2:14).
- The Thessalonians accepted the word preached as the very word of God (which it was!).
- The word of God changes us. The Bible is the inspired word of God, and is the ultimate standard of authority for Christians. God uses men to teach (preach) his word to us so we know how to live life to the glory God.
- The word of God acts as God himself, exposing our innermost thoughts and intentions. This happens constantly in the lives of Christians as the Word teaches us and we grow in our love for God.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for his word. Thank God for the teachers of his word who help us learn more about him and how to live for him. Ask God to help you to listen more closely as his word is taught and to live out his word in your daily life because you love him and want to honor him.

(Elementary) Talk to God thanking him for his word which helps us know how to live in our daily lives. Thank God for faithful teachers of his word. Ask God to help you listen more closely as his word is taught and to live it out daily because you love him and want to honor him.