

The Wonderful Working of God's Word
1 Thessalonians 2:13-16
1 Thessalonians: Foundations of our Faith, part 9

- How I desire for God's Word to continually work wonderfully in your lives!
- The Bible is the only TEXTBOOK for Divine Truth, the only GUIDEBOOK to eternal life.

1. The ENTERING of God's Word, v.13a

2. The EMBRACING of God's Word, v.13b

- How important is God's Word to you? Have you ever read through the Bible from cover to cover? This will keep you in the Word of God. It causes you to read the whole Bible. It helps you gain an understanding of the whole story line of the Bible. Read the Bible from cover to cover!

3. The ENERGIZING through Word of God, v.13c

- As you embrace His Word, it will operate in your inner man energizing and transforming you.

4. The EMBOLDENING by the Word of God, v.14-16

- As God's Word energizes our inner man, it works out into our lives giving a new direction and boldness and give us grace and power to overcome persecutions. Paul goes into the persecutions

A. He **Enumerates** their sins, v.15-16a:

1. They killed the Lord Jesus, v.15a.
2. They had a long opposition to the prophets of God and killed them too, v.15b; Matthew 23:33-36.

Nehemiah 9:26: they were disobedient, and ... slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee...

3. They persecuted Paul and his missionary co-laborers, v.15c; Acts 13:45; 48-51; Acts 14:2, 19.

4. They displease God, v.15d.

5. They are hostile to all men, v.15e:

6. They forbid Paul from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved, v.16a.

Note: God called Israel to be a blessing to the entire world (Gen.12:1-3). Yet, the Jews of Jesus' day rejected Jesus as their Messiah and delivered him to Roman authority for crucifixion. The Jewish people, like ALL people, are sinners and have a natural tendency to hate God and fight against His truth (Matt.23:29,31,37; Luke 11:47,48). Yes, the Romans also participated in Christ's death and are also responsible for Christ's death, (Acts 4:27). Yes, the death of Christ was determined before to be done by God, (Acts 4:28). Yes, your sins and mine put Jesus on the cross, too, (Isaiah 53:6). Yes, Paul loved the Jewish people and was willing to even die and go to hell in order that they might be saved (Romans 9:2,3). And yes, God has a future plan with National Israel and they as a nation will believe in Jesus as their Messiah, Romans 11:25-27.

B. He **Exposes** their punishment, v.16b

- Let the wonderful Word of God do a mighty work in you. As it Enters your heart, Embrace it and let it Energize you and Embolden you to follow Christ no matter the consequences.