

Joyful Receivers of God's Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

- 1) Receive Christ equates to accepting *the word of God* (2:13; cf. Acts 17:1-5)
 - a) Receive the word, and God's work is performed in us
 - b) God's word stands in contrast man's philosophies
 - c) Christians can find joy in those who receive God's word

- 2) Receivers of the word of God will endure sufferings (14)
 - a) Christ, prophets, and apostles endured with joy
 - b) Persecutions come from our own people
 - c) We imitate the saints of old when we suffer for Christ

- 3) The Jews killed Christ, yet *all* who reject Him are equally as guilty (15-16)
 - a) *Some* Jews killed Christ; others received Him
 - b) Those who hinder the gospel remain under God's wrath

- 4) Christians love their brethren and long to be together (17-20)
 - a) Though separated, we are united in spirit
 - b) Great joy can be found in each other's salvation
 - c) Satan attempts to divide us, hindering our joyful gatherings

- 5) We as Christians can bear the fruit of worshipping Christ by...
 - a) Rejoicing in God's word! He gave it to us.
 - b) Welcoming trials as an honor and privilege.
 - c) Affirming our fellows Christians with a note, a word, a gift.