

Receiving the Truth of God's Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14

The following comparison highlights the repetition of four key concepts in the second thanksgiving that were previously emphasized in the first thanksgiving (1:2-10). The numbers follows the order found in the second thanksgiving:

^{NKJ} 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7 For [2] our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power [referring to the effect in those who heard the word], and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And [3] you became followers [or *imitators*, as in ESV, NASB] of us and of the Lord, [1] having received the word [4] in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy thanked God for at least four things that He had done in the lives of the Thessalonians:

- 1) They thanked God for the Thessalonians having received the Word.
- 2) They thanked God for His power working in them through the Word.
- 3) They thanked God for the way in which they became imitators of them and of the Lord.
- 4) They thanked God for the way in which the Thessalonians endured affliction.

Paul again emphasizes these same four concepts, although he alters or expands upon them at points, and they appear in a different order.

^{NKJ} 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because [1] when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, [2] which also effectively works in you who believe. ¹⁴ For [3] you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For [4] you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they *did* from the Judeans

Our consideration of these concepts will follow the order that they appear in this second thanksgiving.

As we make our way through the passage, we will consider a number of other Scripture passages in the following order:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Proverbs 30:5
Isaiah 40:8; 55:10-11
Hebrews 4:12
Romans 1:16; 10:13-17
1 Corinthians 1:18
Hebrews 4:2
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Acts 17:5-10a

These notes should help to make it easier to follow the teaching.