

## 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 – The Word & Satan.

### I. The Word (13-16).

When the Thessalonians responded to the Gospel, they became the targets of persecution. They welcomed the Word of God, received it and as a result the Word transformed them into effective witnesses, giving them power to endure persecution.

As they did, they were not alone, because those among **the churches of God** have often suffered persecution. The Thessalonian Christians became **imitators** of those who had suffered before them.

“Paul comforted these suffering Christians with the assurance that they were not the first to suffer this way. **The Lord Jesus** faced persecution, even to death, thereafter the Christians in **Judea** faced it too, Paul and his associates were also **persecuted.**”

***Mark 4:20 - “But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” -roadside, thorny and rocky-***

***Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

***2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

Scripture is the source of saving truth, transforms, gives life, enlightens, guides, grants us victory against evil, encourages, strengthens, sanctifies, keeps us away from temptation, sin and error, warns, gives assurance, builds, gives joy, sharpens, nourishes, comforts, gives hope, grows faith, brings peace, heals, washes...

Words of Life, words of Hope, Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us Home.

***Ancient words ever true, Changing me, and changing you.***

***We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart. (Hymn).***

## II. Satan (17-20).

Satan is a fallen angel, thrown down from the presence of God because of his pride (**Ezekiel 28:15-19**, **Isaiah 14:12-17**); so from that point on he is out to tempt, steal, kill, destroy, oppose, accuse, intimidate, tell lies, attack and devour.

***2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 - Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.***

**Satan hindered** Paul and his associates from getting to Thessalonica, but couldn't stop them, he wrote them. Finally, God brought the victory. **Acts 20:1-5** describes Paul's eventual return to Thessalonica and to other churches in the area.

"Supposing that we have ascertained that hindrances in our way really come from Satan, What Then? I have but one piece of advice, and that is, go on, hindrance or no hindrance, in the path of duty as God the Holy Ghost enables you." Charles Spurgeon.

***1 Chronicles 21:1 - Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.***

***John 8:44 - "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.***

***Daniel 10:12-13 - Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.***

***Revelation 20:10 - The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***