

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

First RPC Durham

I. Receiving the Word of God with Faith and Perseverance (v 13).**A.** We are to receive the Word of God

- 1) What we are warned against:
 - a) That which comes short of the Scriptures
 - b) That which directly contradicts God's Word (Gen 3:4)
 - c) That which goes beyond the revealed will of God (Rom 11:6)
- 2) What we are to receive: *The very word of God*
 - a) We are warned against implicit faith:
 - b) We are warned against a lack of discernment (1 Jn 4:1; Acts 17:11).
 - c) The benefit of true preaching from faithful undershepherds:
 - i. Faithful preaching glorifies God
 - ii. Faithful preaching feeds Christ's sheep (Jer 15:16; Psa 119:7)

B. The Word of God works in those who believe**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) Make diligent use of the preached Word, and all means of grace
 - a) We are to come prepared each Lord's Day (Ex 16:23; *WLC 171*).
 - b) We are to be active in our worship.
- 2) Have an expectation and make application of the means of grace
- 3) The Lord's work in us is to grow us in faith and continue us in perseverance is cause for rejoicing in the Lord.

II. The Saints' Faithfulness through Suffering (vv 14-16a).**A.** The fruitfulness of true Christians

- 1) Growing in holiness (1 Cor 11:1, NKJV).
- 2) Perseverance through suffering (Jn 15:18-19)

B. Attentiveness given to the church**C.** The great mark of a true visible Church (*WCF 25.2, 4*).**D.** The succession of suffering

- 1) The example of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:22-24)
- 2) The example of the prophets (Heb 11:36-38)
- 3) The example of Paul and Silas (Acts 17:1-10).
- 4) Following in that example (Jn 15:20-21)

E. The plots of the wicked described:

- 1) They hate God (Lk 21:9-16)
- 2) They hate their neighbour (Psa 141:10, ESV).
- 3) They cannot stand the truth (Acts 17:13)

F. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to persevere in the Lord by His grace.
- 2) We are to persevere in the Lord alongside the Church.
- 3) We are to look to the Lord Jesus (Heb 12:1-2)
- 4) We are to rightly consider the Gospel and Law worth suffering for (Acts 5:41-42).

III. The Works and Wages of the Wicked (v 16b).**A.** The works of the wicked

- 1) Wickedness is the constant work of those who are apart from Christ and the covenant of grace. (Rom 1:30; Micah 2:1; Mt 23:31b-32)
- 2) They are, as it were, perfecting their wickedness.

B. The wages of the wicked

- 1) The reckoning of God's judgment will come at the appointed hour (Gen 15:16; Mt 27:25; Psa 109:15)
- 2) We will experience such judgment at our death (Heb 9:27)
- 3) There is judgment appointed at the last day (*WCF 31.1*)
- 4) The wages of wickedness

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Flee the wrath of God through faith in Jesus Christ!
- 2) Know the schemes of the wicked (2 Cor 2:11; Psa 2:2-3).
- 3) Know the end of the wicked, that it leads to destruction.
 - a) Which should cause us to have a hatred of sin.
 - b) Which will prove their ways to be undesirable.
 - c) Which should cause us to have a compassion for the sinner.
 - d) Which will point us to the hope we have in Christ.