

COMMUNION TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD I Thessalonians 2:13

Paul wrote these dear new saints... they were to be commended...

In fact, he "gives thanks" - EUCHARISTED - 3 times for them.

1. **FIRST** - [1:2] He gives thanks for "you" - them as trophies of grace saved, changed, headed in the right direction --- converts.
2. **SECOND**- [2:13] Our text today - he gives thanks for their **TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD**. Believing enough to obey!
3. **THIRD** - [3:9] He gives thanks for the joy their lives produce. Dividends of God are lives invested in...
 - So he thanks God for them as converts of Christ [1:2]
 - So he thanks God for them as dividends of joy [3:9]
 - So he thanks God for them as Word of God obeyers [2:13]

We already learned that God has a whole host of these:

- that take Him at His word
 - that believe and obey
 - that listen and heed
 - that read and treasure
 - that ponder and act
1. Yes, our first was ABEL who took God's Word and OFFERED TO GOD WHAT GOD WANTED. Seems easy, but it's a lifelong task. As one aptly put it:

Christianity has a low initiation fee,
In fact, it costs nothing
But the maintenance costs you everything!

So offer to God today what He wants -- all we are and have with Him in control.

2. DAVID ordered His life by God's Word Ps 119:9-16. Turn then to close our preparation for communion.

Ps. 119 has 22 stanzas, and each has a special theme. Stanza two [9-16] extols the purifying power of the Word. **How? Very simply as -**

- 1) By a word: ORDERED life 9b.
- 2) By a word: DESIRED life [10].
 - God's commands call the shots
 - God's Word is our model
- 3) By a word: PROTECTED life [11]
- 4) By a word: INTERNALIZED life [13]
 - My lips always speak out of the overflow of my heart.
 - Get that Book off the shelf or nitestand and in hand with open eyes and get that truth INSIDE and internalize it.
 - It flows out of our lips from our heart if it's internalized.
- 5) By a word: VERBALIZED LIFE [14]
 - Rejoiced, talked about
 - In Acts, 31 different Greek words used 160+ times of verbal communication.
 - The Word desired and internalized will become verbalized!
 - Acts 5:20 "Go stand and speak all the words of this life"
- 6) A word: FOCUSED life [15]
- 7) A word: CONSCIOUS life [16]
 - It's our delight
 - We don't forget

LET'S TAKE A QUIZ:

- Does God's Word ORDER our lives?
- Is our DESIRE His Word?
- Are we seeing it PROTECT, GUARD and CONQUER?
- Are you INTERNALIZING IT? Daily, weekly...
- How are your VERBAL skills? Do friends, family, fellow workers, know who owns you? Do you tell them often and in any way?
- Are you FOCUSED by the Word of God?
- What on earth are you living for?
- And are you CONSCIOUS of God's Word ALL the time?
- That's taking God at His Word - That's an ORDERED LIFE