

1 **THE CHURCH OF THE WORD DEMONSTRATED**

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

2 **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because 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, which also effectively works in you who believe.

3 **1 Thessalonians 2:13-20**

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because 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, which also effectively works in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,

4 **1 Thessalonians 2:13-20**

¹⁶ forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. ¹⁷ But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. ¹⁸ Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

5 **Last week**

A CHURCH OF THE WORD

verse 13: *"¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because 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, which also effectively works in you who believe."*

Because they "received the Word."

6 **By imitating the pattern of the Judean churches**

- *¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus.*
- The churches of Judea was a model for the Thessalonian Christians to follow.

7 **Number 1 persecutor – Saul of Tarsus**

Acts 8:1: "Now Saul was consenting to his (Stephen's) death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

8 **The Apostles**

- Everyone was scattered except the apostles. That is the key!
- The apostles were the repository and protector of the truth of God's word.
- Acts 2:42: *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine ...*
- They did not yet have the completed Bible. Some of the apostles were in Jerusalem guarding and overseeing the preaching of God's word.

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9 **Bear Creek United Baptist Church of Christ**

- Organized on May 15, 1853. That's 163 years ago.
- How did those early pioneers maintain the unity and purity of the Word of God as they family by family moved westward into uncharted territory?

10 **United Baptist research**

The history of the United Baptists was the union of the Regular Baptists and Separate Baptists in the late 1780s to 1800s . . . Virginia was the first state to officially form a union in 1787 while Kentucky's union was finalized in 1801.

11 **Their Confession of Faith**

The doctrine of salvation by Christ, and free and unmerited grace alone ought to be believed by every Christian, and maintained by every minister of the gospel. . . . Upon these terms we are united and desire that from henceforth we shall be known by the name of the UNITED BAPTIST CHURCHES IN VIRGINIA.

12 **How did that work in practical terms?**

- People were constantly migrating west.
- When they were moving from Virginia or Kentucky to somewhere like Arkansas or Texas, they would request their church letter which would state that they were members in good standing.

13 **January 5, 1856 minutes of our church**

We the United Baptist Church of Christ at Pleasant Grove, Wayne County KY, do certify that Bro. Allen Christian is in good standing and in first fellowship with us and will be dismissed from us when joined to any other Church of the same faith and order.

14 **Living in the last days**

- *Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1).*

15 • **2 Timothy 4:2-4:**

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables"

16 **By submitting to suffering**

- v. 14a: *"For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans."*
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6: *"having received the word in much affliction."*

17 **Acts 17:1-4**

"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

18 **Acts 17:5-6**

⁵ But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."

19 **Their trials proved the genuineness of their conversion**

- Because they had been truly born again – changed forever – they could not and would not worship any other god.
- They discovered the truth that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

20 **Fox's Book of Martyrs**

"This is a book that will never die--one of the great Christian classics. Written with passion and tenderness, it tells the dramatic, true stories of men, women, and children who, in the face of indescribable persecution, gave their lives for the sake of Christ. Covering the broad sweep of church history from the early church to the beginning of American foreign missions in the early 1800s, Fox's Book of Martyrs continues to inspire and strengthen countless Christians with a vision of faith that, both in life and in death, commits itself utterly to the Lord of Life."

21 **China's Book of Martyrs**

Wang Ming-Dao – In prison from 1955–1980
Watchman Nee (Ni Tuo-Sheng) - 1952–1972

22 **China's Book of Martyrs - 2**

Eric Liddell

- Movie: *Chariots of Fire* - 1924 Olympics
- 1925–1943 - Missionary in China
- 1941—1943 - Prison camp

23 **China's Book of Martyrs - 3**

This volume tells the story of the church in China through a comprehensive account of all who have been martyred in that country for their faith in Christ. It is estimated that since the Nestorians first introduced the gospel to China in the seventh century an estimated 250,000 Christians have died for their faith. And since 1900, more Christians have been killed for Christ in China than in all other countries of the world combined.

24 **By their warning to the ungodly**

v. 16a: *forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.*

John 3:36: *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

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25 **By their warning to the ungodly 2**

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10: ⁷ and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

26 **By their hope in Jesu's return**

v. 19-20: ¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

Titus 2:13: "Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The good news – Jesus is coming again!