

"ENDURING PERSECUTION FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST"

(1 Thessalonians 2:13-16)

III. THE VINDICATION OF THEIR MESSAGE AND MINISTRY. (2:1-16)

A. Their **GODLY MINISTRY** in Review. (2:1-12)

B. Their **GRATEFULNESS** to **GOD** Repeatedly. (2:13-16)

1. Because of their **RECEPTION** of the **WORD of GOD**. (2:13)

This missions team thanked God constantly because...

a. the Thessalonians had _____ the Word of God. (2:13a)

* What did they receive?

* What can you learn from this?

b. the Thessalonians had _____ the Word of God. (2:13b)

* Who did they realize was not the source of this message?

* What did they recognize to be the source of this message?

* What effect did this have on them?

* What can you learn from this?

2. Because of their **SUFFERING** for the **SON of GOD**. (2:14-16)

a. The *consequence* of their suffering was that they “became _____ of the churches _____ which are in Judea in Christ Jesus.” (2:14a)

* How are these churches described?

b. The *cause* of their suffering was their “own _____.” (2:14b)

* Why is this especially difficult?

c. The *classic example* of opposition to God’s Word is the _____. (2:15-16)

Three examples to verify this...

1) “who killed _____”

2) “who killed _____”

3) “and have _____”

* What is God’s evaluation of them?

* What especially did this persecution seek to hinder?

* Why did this occur?

* What is the final outcome of this opposition to God’s Word?

* What can you learn from this?