

# 1 THESSALONIANS

**STANDING FIRM & PRESSING ON,  
UNITED TO JESUS.**

## **Reception and Rejection 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16**

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1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 instructs on the nature of Christian ministry, especially what ministry should NOT look like or be based on. By way of a series of five contrasts, Paul gives us marks to evaluate how we are serving the body of Christ.

Background: Acts 5:17-42

Gamaliel's wisdom: "...keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"

1. A Reason for Courage (2:13)  
They received the gospel as the Word of God, not as some clever-made philosophy.

2. A Resource for Courage (2:13)  
By God's grace, His Word became active in His people, transforming them with power.

The transforming power of the Word of God could be seen especially in how the Thessalonian believers responded to suffering and persecution.

3. A Reward for Courage (2:16)

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Compare Peter in John 18:15-27 and in Acts 5:17-42. What changed, and what hope does Peter's transformation offer for us today?
2. Can you recall a time when you experienced some form of rejection because of your faith in Jesus Christ?
3. What did the Thessalonians come to believe about the source and authority of the gospel of Jesus Christ? What difference did that belief make?
4. Have you encountered people who put the gospel of Jesus Christ on the level of being just another man-made religious theory?
5. How have you experienced the power of the Word of God in your life? Are there specific ways you have seen that it is living and active in you?
6. How do we address Paul's tone toward the Jews in verses 15-16? What was his point?
7. How is your life manifesting courage to live in the power of the Word of God? In what ways could you live more boldly for Christ?