

“How God Uses Persecution to Develop Faith, Love, and Hope”

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Message #8 February 19, 1995

INTRO

MESSAGE

- I. What does it mean to walk worthy of your calling? (1 Thes. 2:12)
 - A. It means that you following the footsteps of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18).
 - B. It means that you are waging a war against your sinful tendencies (Rom. 8:9-15).
 - C. It means that you are learning to feast on the doctrines of (the faith) more and more (1 Cor. 2:12; 3:2).

- II. What is the single most important step in developing a worthy walk? (1 Thes. 2:13) Why?
 - A. Because God’s Word is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12).
 - B. Because God’s Word always accomplishes God’s purposes (Is. 55:11).
 - C. Because God’s Word is adequate (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - D. Because God’s Word leads you to freedom (John 8:31-32).

- III. What is one of the evidences of a worthy walk? (1 Thes. 2:14-16).
 - A. Jesus suffered persecution because of a bold witness.
 1. Luke 7:33-34
 - B. Paul suffered persecution because of a bold witness.
 1. by zealous, unbelieving Jews (Acts 13:44-52; 14:1-7).
 2. by legalistic, believing Jews (Acts 15:1-5).
 - C. How did Jesus and Paul handle persecution?
 1. with an attitude of meekness (Is. 50:4-11).
 2. with eyes focused on Jesus (Heb. 12:1-3).
 3. with a view to increased effectiveness in the ministry (Acts 8:1,4; 11:19-21; Phil. 1:12-14).
 4. with an unshakeable confidence in the Savior’s love (Rom. 8:17, 35-39).

- IV. Who can you count on when persecution strikes? (1 Thes. 2:17-20)
 - A. A team that cares for your soul (Heb. 13:7, 17).
 - B. A team that sees the world through the individual (John 17:4, 20).
 - C. A team that sees you as their hope and joy and crown.
 1. hope – because you give them a sense of encouragement (the future is bright).
 2. joy – because you give them a sense of purpose (the ministry is worthwhile – my life counts).
 3. crown – because you give them a sense of pride (you represent a job well done).

LIFE-RESPONSE

“Faith Comes By Hearing”