



# 1 THESSALONIANS 2: 9-13

Letter	Date of Writing	Place of Writing
1st Thessalonians	54 A.D.	Corinth

In Session 6 we left off with verse 8 and discovered,

What a joy to be in a church where there is such affectionate love! A church where the body of Christ is excited about the word of God! A church like the Thessalonians, where they shared the gospel with everyone. That is why this church was so dear to Paul.

You recall their three ministry traits:

1. Work of faith.
2. Labor of love.
3. Patience in hope.

Paul loved them for that. It was reciprocal, Paul gently shared the gospel with them, and they responded and became dear to Paul and no doubt to one another.

---

## Verse 9 -

**For ye remember, brethren, our labor, and travail.** We don't know if Paul worked a side job in Thessalonica, like he did when he went to Corinth (Acts 18:3), but the implication is that he and the others may have, **that we might not be a burden (KJV chargeable, ἐπιβαρέω epibareo) to any of you.** He could mean, we didn't want to be expensive to you. Paul only wanted to **preach unto you the gospel of God**, he didn't want any strings attached to cause the Thessalonians to feel that they owed him something, or to cause them any more grief. In 1 Corinthians 9:18, Paul told that church, *Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.* The NKJV does a good job using the word, **burden**, yet it was probably more of a financial burden Paul is using here.

### Verse 10 -

**You are witnesses, and God also.** The Thessalonians were like one who testifies in a court, they saw it all. The apostles, when they taught them the truth of the gospel, hid nothing. They taught **devoutly** (KJV, holily: In a manner pleasing to God), **justly** (they had upright character), **and blamelessly** ἄμεμπτος *amemptos* (1 Thessalonians 5:23; 3:13). **We behaved ourselves among you that believe.** Literally, *To you who believe we became (or we were).*

### Verse 11 -

**How we exhorted**, to call to one's side. Paul says, we came alongside of you, and **comforted**, is to console or even cheer up someone, or calm them--even encourage! **Charged** (to appeal, to ask, to urge) them. Just **as a father does his own children**. A good father tells his children the truth, cheers them up when they are sad, and comes alongside them in time of need.

Paul is using figurative language here, but we should make a point to note that in the literal sense, we need good fathers. If you are a man or a boy and you are listening to me, you might not have had a good father. Good fathers are in short supply these days. Ninety-three percent of our prisoners in the U.S. and I would venture to say in Cambodia, are males. Of those 93 percent, more than 90 percent of them are dad-deprived males. In fact in 56 percent of the largest developed countries, boys are having problems.

So while Paul is using this as a metaphor for the church, the same holds true for the family. We need fathers who exhort, comfort, and charge their sons. Any person who had a bad father or a weak father, or even no father, can break the cycle in his family, by putting these three traits into practice in your own home, and it is never too late to begin.

What did Paul *charge* or *appeal*?

### Verse 12 -

So **That you** (KJV ye, plural), **would walk worthy of God.** It appears he is saying, walk in a manner that is worthy of your calling? Who are the "ye" and, what is their calling?

Again, we get the idea Paul is addressing Jewish believers. **Who calls** (summons) **you into His own kingdom and glory.** The word **calls** is a key word. In the KJV it is translated *called*. The word is in the present tense meaning, *you are already called*. What is the nation of Israel called to? The Kingdom.

The kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God, is a kingdom that will be established on earth by Jesus Christ himself, and he will rule over the entire world. (Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 19:15).

## 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 | Session 7

The kingdom has two phases, first, the millennium, or the one thousand year reign of Christ (Revelation 20:4-6), and then the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1; Isaiah 65:17).

It is the nation of Israel that inherits the Kingdom and the glory that goes along with it. The word translated as kingdom is the word βασιλεία *basileia*, to reign; the right or authority to rule over a kingdom. So this verse describes what the nation of Israel has already been called to.

The church has not been called to this presently, this is Israel's calling. Israel will rule and reign with Jesus Christ when He sits on His earthly throne in the kingdom. All believers, Jew and Gentile, may have a role in the Kingdom, but only Israel's role is specifically described in Scripture.

A few more Kingdom thoughts: In the gospel of Luke, Luke the writer uses the term kingdom forty-five times, yet in Acts, another book written by Luke, he uses it only eight times. The apostle Paul, in all of his writings, uses the term kingdom only fourteen times. What is the difference?

In the gospels, the kingdom was in the full-blown stage of being offered. In [John 19](#), Jesus was rejected and crucified, and with it the imminent offer of the kingdom was throttled back. In order for the kingdom to come, The nation would have to repent of their rejection, but after the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 there was no way for the kingdom to come, and it was postponed until after the seven-year tribulation.

So it looks like there is a transition period of the kingdom still a reality, but not appearing to take root with any of the national leaders of Israel. Therefore, the kingdom of God is a future reality and that is what Paul is referring to here.

### Verse 13 -

Paul commends them for walking worthy of their calling, **for this reason we also thank God without ceasing.** How did this church show their worthiness? By the way they reacted to the apostles teaching, **for when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it.**

What a blessing when people welcome the Word of God. This word welcome means *to take with the hand, or to take hold of it.* We need Christians to take the Bible in hand and take hold of it in their lives. We live in a post Christian culture, and beloved it is not improving. Now is the day to have bold believers who hear the word, and take it up and let it permeate their lives. But not just because we hear a sermon by your pastor.

**Not as the word of men.** This isn't a book written with man's opinion. The Thessalonians knew it was the **truth, the word of God.**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 | Session 7

What does God's word do in our lives? It **effectively works**. The Greek word, **works** is **ἐνεργέω** *energeo*. The **word of God** effectively gives us energy to live our Christian life. When you think you cannot overcome temptations or endure trials, or hold up under stress, and when you falter and fall, it may be because you lack *energeo*.

Paul commends this church for their energy in the word of God.