

Three Results When the Church Receives the Word of God
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

1. Christlike Imitation (v. 13-14)

(1 Cor. 4:15-17, 10:31-11:1; Eph. 4:32-5:2;
Heb. 6:10-12; 1 Pet. 2:21; Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:28-29;
Titus 2)

- No matter the geographical location, the Word of God received and obeyed by regenerate believers will always result in Christlike churches that share amazing similarities in spite of cultural differences, such that fellow believers will recognize they are among brothers and sisters in Christ.
- The Word of God, the person of Jesus Christ, and the pattern set by the lives of his disciples provide a target for redeemed humanity to imitate. The world has no such target for humans to know what is “normal” behavior. In fact, the world follows the pattern set in Genesis 3 of man deciding for himself what is good and evil. Our modern culture has now taken this to the extreme, encouraging people to completely set their own goals of what they want to be, no matter how absurd or sinful, and forcing the rest of society to celebrate this madness and rebellion.

2. Endurance in Tribulation (v. 15-16)

(Acts 16:16-24, 17:1-9, 19:21; Matt. 5:12-13;
1 Pet. 1:6-9, 4:12-14)

- No matter the culture or geographical location, the Word of God received, obeyed, and proclaimed by regenerate believers will inevitably result in hostility, persecution, and tribulation.
- Though it is not something to seek out and it is certainly not the most enjoyable consequence of living for Christ, it is a likely sign and source of encouragement that you are following the true Gospel and it provides the opportunity to test and strengthen your faith.

3. **Affectionate Exultation** (v. 17-20)

(1 Thess. 2:7-8; Gal. 4:19; Philippians 1:8; 3 John 4)

- When you preach and teach the Word of God to others and they receive it as the Word of God, repenting of sin and striving to imitate Christ, even in the face of opposition, there is no greater occasion for joy and exultation before the Lord.
- This is one of the greatest sources of joy this side of heaven: to be an instrument in God's hands to help another person know God through the Gospel and to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.