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## In The Face Of Persecution 1 Thessalonians 2:9-20 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.



This week we are looking at the end of chapter 2 of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians. Great persecution was experienced by many believers in the early church. The people of Thessalonica were persecuted just as the Jewish Christians in Judea were persecuted. Paul continued to share the gospel no matter what it took. He was willing to work night and day in order to make sure the message of the gospel was received. He considered the people he reached his joy and his crown. Join us this week as we talk about the urgency of sharing the message of the gospel and the reward that comes with it.



1 THESSALONIANS 2:9-20 NASB

<sup>9</sup> For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; <sup>11</sup> just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, <sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. <sup>14</sup> For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews, <sup>15</sup> who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, <sup>16</sup> hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

<sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and *yet* Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?





Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*