

The Model Church: A Strong People

1 Thessalonians 02: 13–20

1 *They received the Word of God as the Word of God*

- a. Received it through men
- b. Received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God
- c. Received it as it worked in their lives

2 *They became followers of strong churches: Stood fast despite severe persecution*

3 *They escaped the Jews' guilt*

- a. Killed the Lord Jesus
- b. Killed the prophets
- c. Persecuted believers
- d. Did not please God
- e. Opposed all men
- f. Shut people out
- g. The result of their guilt
 - 1) They became full of their sins
 - 2) They brought wrath upon themselves

4 *They possessed a strong fellowship*

- a. Paul had been forced to flee because of persecution
- b. Paul wished to return
- c. Paul was opposed by Satan

5 *They were destined to bring glory and joy to their ministers*

- a. To Paul
- b. At Christ's coming

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

14 For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews,

15 Who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men

16 In their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

17 But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

18 For we wanted to come to you — certainly I, Paul, did, again and again — but Satan stopped us.

19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.