

“The Gospel: How Bittersweet It Is”
(A People to be **Glad** for - A People to be **Sad** for)
(1 Thessalonians 2:13-16)

III. PAUL’S GODLY MINISTRY TO THE THESSALONIANS (2:1-20)

A. The CONDUCT of Paul And His Team (2:1-12)

B. The RESPONSE of The Thessalonians (2:13-16)

1. One of _____ to the _____ in Christ

- a. The Thessalonian response had been _____. So much so, that Paul & his team expressed _____ to God for their response. (2:13a) ... *“For this reason we also _____ God without ceasing...”*

* What does *“for this reason/cause”* refer to?

b. The missionaries were thankful for the Thessalonians reception of the _____.

- What makes the WOG – different from the words of men?

“received” (paralambano)

c. The Thessalonians not only heard the content of the missionaries message, but they also _____ and _____ it as from God Himself. (2:13d)

*Why was that?

*How did they know that this was the word of God?

d. The Word of God showed its **power** in that it _____ in them. (2:13d)

“*effectively worked*” (energeo) =

*What is the one condition required by us for this to be true in our lives?

Do other scriptures teach this?

Are you “**hearing**” what God is saying to you?

What is your **aim** in hearing the word of God?

*How was this reflected in their lives? (2:14)

- 1) The Thessalonians became _____ of the churches of God in Judea
- 2) Because of their identity with Christ, they _____ as well.

*From whose hands did they suffer? (2:14b)

2. One of _____ to the rejector of Christ, and it becomes one of opposition even _____ toward the believer in Christ!

• Because of their _____ of the saving message of the gospel and Who it pointed to, they have “*filled up their _____ always*” indicating ... God’s “_____ *has come upon them to the _____*”.

*What does all this mean to you today?