

The Authority of Scripture on Trial

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Study Guide

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. (New International Version)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. (King James Version)

The questions for The Authority of Scripture on Trial Bible Study are:

Who are the authors of these passages?

What is their testimony concerning the authority and trustworthiness of Scripture?

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. Now, we can look into the Greek translations to understand 1 Thessalonians 2:13 better and the depth Christ intended us to understand.

Let us break down the Scripture in Greek.

Thank in Greek means “to be grateful that is actually to express gratitude

Ceasing in Greek means “uninterruptedly that is without omission- on an appropriate occasion

Omission means a failure to do something – especially something that one has a moral or legal obligation to do

Worketh in Greek means “to be active efficient, be mighty in shew forth self-work”

Truth in Greek means “indeed surely of a surety truly

Believe in Greek means “to have faith in upon or with respect to a person or thing that is credit by implication to entrust especially one’s spiritual wellbeing to Christ

1 Thessalonians 2:13 can be taken out of context, if we do not understand the scriptures prior.

Let look at 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ² We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³ For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴ On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶ We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷ Instead, we were like young children^[a] among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. (New International Version)

Paul, the writer of Thessalonians has made it clear in this scripture. But before we get into this-

I want you to look at the difference between the New International Version and the King James Version. The NIV has chosen to use the word continually for the word ceasing in the KJV. Referring to the scripture 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

What is the significance of this? Continually doesn’t scratch the surface of what ceasing truly means.

This is the reason how reading in the King James Version and using a Strong’s Concordance is imperative to understand the scripture correctly and not out of context.

Ceasing goes beyond continually praising God, praising God is very important and the word continually doesn’t come close to the importance praise is to God.

How do we praise God? Praising God is not only singing praises to our Lord.

Praise is so much deeper than that. Praise is what God made us to do. We were born worshippers.

We praise God every second of the day, through our speech, actions, thoughts, our thankfulness, which should be the foremost on your mind.

Are you thankful for the air you breath, the clothes on your back, that you can dress yourself? The smallest thing we should be praising God that He gave us another day to live.

It is clear God is speaking through Paul. Paul, God's mouthpiece is telling you - hey, I am right here right in front of you, me, God, the one you have been crying out to, the God that has embodied this man right in front of you by the name, Paul.

I have given Him my power, my likeness, my authority, to instruct you in the way you should go.

I am reminded of the scripture of Luke 8:32 "the truth shall set you free". When we read Luke 8:31 and the previous scriptures God is telling us His word, His word is the truth.

The truth will deliver, cleanse, and bring sanctification, holiness of me, says the Lord.

The word must change you. One must believe that those in the Bible were possessed by God to be God on this earth for you - as this scripture states. BUT only if you believe.

If you do not believe, then, the life examples in the Bible are mere stories and no truth. The Apostles were just mere men, Mary Magdalene, Mary, Jesus Mother, Joanna, Susanna and others were mere women – if you do not believe.

These individuals were possessed by God helping Jesus, helping their man of God do what needed to be done to spread the gospel because they believed in their heart, mind and soul- they were possessed by God himself.

If there is no belief, then you will continue to sin, live in religiosity and man-made traditions. The word is meant to cut you, to cut out the old man, the old mindset.

When you get offended by the word of God; you must check yourself because that is a sign.

God is showing, the ugly you to yourself. God is wanted to change you, but you are getting offended instead of humbling yourself to the word of God.

So, then you don't change, you continue to get offended because of the knowledge you may think you know, but in fact you know nothing. Your heart is full of religiosity and black as coal. This is a huge warning.

Why do you think the word says, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling?" Philippians 2:12-13 more great words from Paul, who is possessed by God.

The word is fierce, God doesn't play, especially in these times. We must fear God, and change from evil, so we can be purified and fully sanctified.

God through Paul is reminding us how important for us to praise God, thankfulness is just minimum, we must act like Jesus within our heart, mind, and soul.

Every action we take must be a pleasing aroma to God. We do not want to make a move unless the Lord is with us. Therefore, we have a choice to believe whether the word of God is for real or not.

God's word is true for those that want to believe. God is giving us a choice to believe. God is such a gentleman and not forcing Himself on us.

We have the choice to love God, to enjoy God, to be a sweet, pleasant aroma of pleasure to Him.

We have a choice to believe that His word spoken through Paul is the truth.

Believe now, believe the truth as God is speaking through the mouth of Paul.

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References:

Strongs Concordance

New International Version Bible

Kings James Version Bible

www.biblegateway.com