

**The Weekly Word**  
October 14-20, 2013

My life continues to be blessed by the message of Paul. Happy reading...  
Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link... <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>.

**Monday, October 14: 1Thessalonians 2– The word of God from God...**

For me, truths of God spoken subtly often are the most powerful. There are many arguments in Scripture for it being from God not merely words of men. This morning verse 13 provided one of those subtle yet powerful reminders. *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.***

Notice the bolded words.

Paul believed and the Thessalonians believed that the Word of God was actually words from God.

There are days that pop up in my life when I wonder if the Bible is really true. Is this faith in Jesus really true, or am I nuts to believe it? These thoughts don't generally last long, but they do occur. And when they do, verses like verse 13 fill my mind and heart and soul reminding me that I am not the first to believe nor will I be the last. With faith comes the wonder of God working in me. And one of those works of God in me is giving me the faith to believe that the Word of God is truly and honestly Words of God from God!

Faith rejuvenated, my walk with the Lord deepens!

*Lord God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank You for making Your Word known to me, us. Thank You for sharing actual words, teachings, thoughts with me, us.*

*Yes, I believe... in You and in Your Word as truth, as life, as the way to life eternal here and life immortal with You in eternity.*

*May the wonder of Your Word continue to breath life in me so that I may be able to give Your life away to others. I pray this through Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.*

**Tuesday, October 15: 1Thessalonians 3– Paul's Prayers...**

Paul's prayers encourage and inspire me. His prayers seem to transcend the present needs that so often fill my prayers. He prays for things of substance, faith, love, endurance, holiness and things like this.

Today's chapter closes with one of Paul's prayers. *May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones (12-13).*

*Lord, teach me to pray prayers of substance, prayers of depth, prayers that transcend the ordinary and the selfish. Lord, teach me to pray prayers that will change people for the good, that will bring people to Your kingdom and give You glory.*

*Lord, teach me to pray as Paul and Jesus prayed! Amen.*

### **Wednesday, October 16: 1Thessalonians 4– Teach me to live as a Christ Follower...**

In a few brief verses, Paul sums up for the Thessalonians his teachings about how to live as a Christ follower. This gave me plenty to chew on...

Verses 1-2: Never become complacent and satisfied; continually strive to grow in maturity and holiness.

*Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more...*

Verses 3-8: Live sexually pure lives, not as the world but as God instructs in Scripture

*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ... For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.*

Verses 9-10: Love one another and grow in this...

*Now about brotherly love ... to do so more and more.*

Verses 11-12: Lead respectable lives, win the respect of others and work hard to care for yourselves.

*... lead a quiet life, ... work with your hands, ... so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

Lots to meditate upon...

*Lord, there is so much here... bring it to mind over and over today so that I marinate my life in it today. For Your Kingdom sake. Amen.*

### **Thursday, October 17: 1Thessalonians 5– 14 pithy, practical faith practices ...**

In rapid succession, Paul fires a series of “be’s and do’s.” Fourteen pithy, practical faith practices. Verses 14-22:

*Warn those who are idle,*

*Encourage the timid,*

*Help the weak,*

*Be patient with everyone.*

*Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong,*

*but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.*

*Be joyful always;*

*Pray continually;*

*Give thanks in all circumstances, ...*

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire;*

*do not treat prophecies with contempt.*

*Test everything.*

*Hold on to the good.*

*Avoid every kind of evil.*

Want to show God you are listening? Want to live faithfully? Here are 14 faith practices you can hone in your life.

Are you ever tempted to think that faith in Jesus is only ‘pie-in-the-sky’ stuff, ethereal and mystical? If so, take a good look at this list of practical ‘bes and dos’.

*God, sometimes I make following Jesus complicated and I forget the basic commands... to love You with heart, soul, mind and strength and to love others as I love myself. Paul's words today remind me just how practical and down to earth loving You and loving others can be.*

*Now, Lord, help me to LOVE... in Jesus' name I pray. Amen*

### **Friday, October 18: 2Thessalonians 1– Pay back...**

It seems that God makes many promises to protect us, care for us, and repay those who are evil towards us because of our faith. But I don't honestly see a lot of this: God stepping in and vindicating His people in the face of persecution. What gives? Can God be taken at His Word?

Today's reading was tremendously helpful for me at this very point. I will include verses 6-10, but verses 6-7 are to my main point.

*God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.*

Yes, God promises punishment to those who persecute His family and do not believe in Jesus, but this *happens when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven*, when Jesus returns.

As one who would like to have God roar and give relief today, I still take heart that God keeps His Word and He will vindicate His people... just not today. And God is withholding His vengeance, (read that latter portion of the verses for today), so that as many as will believe have time to believe. In other words, God is withholding His punishment so people have more time to be saved.

"Bill," God's voice whispers, "get out there and let people know about Me so that they can believe!"

*Lord, You are so gracious. Sitting this morning I am realizing all the more how gracious You are. You will keep Your Word, and yet You are holding back so that as many as will come to You will come. What incredible displays of love on both sides of that last thought.*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord...*

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*Blessed be the name of the Lord, my God... Amen.*

### **Saturday, October 19: 2Thessalonians 2– The battle that is no battle at all...**

I am not one to dwell on Jesus' return and the final battle between Jesus and the forces of evil prior to Jesus' ultimate victory. God says we will not know the day or time, so for me all the speculation is a waste of time.

One thing I do believe is that Jesus wins, God wins and of this, I have no doubt!

Another thing I believe is that the final battle will not be a 'battle' at all. At the word of Jesus, He wins. The enemy might think it will be a battle and he has a chance to win but he doesn't. Verse 8 reads, *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.* Jesus' mere coming upon the scene -His second and final coming- is all that He needs. The breath of His mouth will destroy the enemy. (Revelation 19, around verse 20 paints a similar picture of the final battle which really isn't a battle at all, but that is for another morning of meditation).

And where does all this lead me? I follow the text. Verse 15, *So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.*

I stand confident in Jesus that the assignments He gives me I can execute in His name with His authority and power for His glory alone!

Alleluia, Jesus wins! God wins! All in God through faith in Jesus win!

*Lord, what wonderful thoughts to enjoy on this eve of weekly worship. Carry me through my day that I might praise You with all my heart and soul and mind and strength and voice in worship today as I live. And tomorrow as I gather with others who worship You and praise You, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In Your mighty name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

### **Sunday, October 20, 2013, Sunday Worship**

*If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list... I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.*

*If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at [office@pcogonline.org](mailto:office@pcogonline.org).*

Click [here](#) for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.