

Study Guide

Steadfast 2:13-20

Steadfast in Witness

Big Idea: Accepting the word, opposes the world.

1. Discuss some of your initial thoughts from the sermon.
2. Read 1 Thess. 2:13. What does it mean to receive and accept the word of God? What happened for us to have the Bible today (2 Peter 1:20-21)?
 - a. How is God's word different from man's word? (Psalm 33:6; Matt. 24:35; Psalm 12:6).
 - b. Discuss how Jesus endorsed the Old Testament (John 5:47; Luke 24:25-27; Luke 24:44).
3. What does the Bible do for us, according to the last phrase in verse 13? (see also 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12). Discuss examples of how people's lives change when they read and follow God's word.
4. Read 1 Thess. 2:14-16. What do all believers have in common with Jesus and the prophets? How have you experience opposition by claiming to believe God's word?
5. Read 1 Thess. 2:17-20. Discuss some positive aspects of enduring in the midst of opposition, like friendship, hardship and future glory. What is Paul saying in these verses?

Application

Pray for strength and wisdom on how to navigate trusting the word of God and enduring opposition for it.

Message Slides

Steadfast

I. Accepting the word (v.13)

"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

A. Elevated

Psalm 33:6- "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."

Matt. 24:35- "Heaven and earth may pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Psalm 19:7 "The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple."

Psalm 12:6- "...the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times."

B. Originated

Deut. 18:16-18

"Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." **17** The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. **18** I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him."

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2 Pet. 1:20-21

"... no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

C. Accepted

Deut. 31:26

"Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a witness..."

D. Tied to History

Image- Chariot Wheel

E. Endorsed by Jesus

John 5:47

"If you do not believe [Moses] writings, how will you believe my words?"

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Luke 24:25-27

"He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

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Luke 24:44

"He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'"

- A. Elevated
- B. Originated
- C. Accepted
- D. Tied to History
- E. Endorsed by Jesus

F. Standardized

1 John 1: 3

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

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Revelation 22:18-19

"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, ...And if anyone takes words away ..."

I. Accepting the word (v.13)

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, **which is at work in you believers.**”

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Matt. 4:4

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

Image- Mutiny on the Bounty

Big Idea: Accepting the word, opposes the world.

II. ...Opposes the World (v.14-16)

“For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!”

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III. Thoughts (v.17-20)

“But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹For what is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.”

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- A. Friendship
- B. Hardship
- C. Joy

