

4. Paul's words about Jews are HARSH and require careful consideration. (2:14-16)

Things to keep in mind as we aim to understand this difficult text . . .

- Paul is himself a JEW.
- Paul would give up his own SALVATION to see his fellow Jews SAVED.
- Paul is speaking from his own personal EXPERIENCE.
- Paul is reiterating the teaching of JESUS.
- Paul is not being racist, but condemning Judaizers for their Gospel REJECTION and RACISM.
- We are ALL “under God’s wrath”, but Jesus delivers us from the wrath that is coming!

5. Paul has a DEEP AFFECTION for God's People . . .

- He longs to BE WITH God's people. (2:17-20)
- He gives himself for the FAITH of God's people. (3:1-10)
- He prays for the INCREASE of LOVE among God's people and for all. (3:11-13)

When we attentively read God's Word, all sorts of of stuff . . . insights, observations, questions and more . . . will jump out of the verses at us!

Here are 5 insights and observations that are worth our attention and contemplation in 1 Thessalonians 2:13-13 . . .

1. God's Word is at WORK in Christian believers. (2:13)

2. Christian believers are DESTINED for afflictions. (3:3)

3. The double mention of Satan is a reminder that we have a real ENEMY, but our God is GREATER. (2:18, 3:5)

Growth Groups are the glue that hold our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to gracecentralcoast.org.

Caring for One Another

Paul prayed that the Thessalonians' love for one another and for all would increase and abound. Begin your time this week praying 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 for your group.

Talk about what it might look like for love to increase and abound in and through your group to those beyond your group.

Digging Into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Here at Grace we're committed to "coming under" God's Word, not "standing over" it. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:13 together again as a group. What jumped out at you from God's Word and the message this week?
2. When you read the Bible or hear it taught, how conscious are you that God's Word is at work IN you? How have you experienced this wonderful truth? What difference should this truth make in our lives?

3. Paul says in 3:3 that we are "destined" for afflictions. The Bible is so clear about this. How does this fly in the face of contemporary cultural ideas? What is the value of knowing this truth? How in touch with this truth are you?
4. What was your reaction to Paul's harsh words toward Jews in 2:14-16? Did the larger explanation in the message help put this in context for you?
5. Looking at these verses, where do you see Paul's deep affection for God's people? What is the state of your own affection for God's people? If Paul's affection for God's people is a reflection of God's affection for his people, how can we "stir up" these affections?

Praying Together

- As an expression of your love for one another, pray for one another's needs.
- Share names of not-yet-Christians that God is calling you to love. Pray for the increase and abounding of your love for these people.