

4th week of August
The Right Posture of Listening and Learning

- **Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (August 22)
- **Bottom line:** Those who receive God's word and not man's word can see God's work.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 204) 주의 말씀 듣고서

≡ **2. Prayer**

God, we gathered before You with a heart that longs for Your grace. Please help our family grow in faith and love for each other through worship .

≡ **3. The Word**

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

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.

<NASB>

13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of mere men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.

≡ **Understanding Text**

Paul thanked God for the faith, hope, and love of the Thessalonian Saints. The reason why their faith grew so quickly is because of their attitude of listening to God's word. When the Thessalonian saints received God's word, they did not accept it as the word of man, but accepted it as the actual word of God and obeyed it completely.

□ **Understanding the text for India**

The Church of Thessalonica was established when Paul visited Thessalonica during his second preaching journey. Paul's stay in Thessalonica was very short. According to the Acts account, he stayed in Thessalonica for about three weeks (Acts 17:1, 2). Nevertheless, thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:23~26) that he experienced in the Philippi prison, Paul must have preached the gospel more zealously than ever before in Thessalonica (2:2). Many Greece were born in Thessalonica, and a church was established. Later, Paul wanted to visit Thessalonica again, but his wish was not granted. However, when Paul heard the news of the Thessalonian Saints through Timothy, he praised them for their life of faith and brotherly love.

He also gave constant thanks to God for the growth of the saints' faith and revival. The reason why the Thessalonian saints stood firm with faith, hope, and love was because they did not accept God's word as the words of man, but as the actual words of God. That is why the word of the living God came alive and exerted power among the saints.

4. Sharing

1) When Paul preached the word of God, what attitude did the Thessalonian Saints take? (verse 13).

■ Upper Grades

How did the Thessalonian Saints feel when they heard the word of God?

■ Lower Grades

How did the Thessalonian Saints feel when they heard the word of God?

□ Question Guide

Paul commended the Thessalonian Saints for their faith and mentioned how they listened to the word of God. Share what the Thessalonian Saints had in their "receiving attitude" and how that attitude influenced their growth in faith.

□ Commentary for India

Although the Church in Thessalonica had only recently been established, the faith of the Saints there grew and progressed so much that it spread and became an example in Macedonia and the surrounding area. At the beginning of his letter, Paul says, "I remember and thank God for your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope." (1 Thessalonians 1:2~3). Even after Paul and his companions left, the Holy Spirit continued to work on the saints and had a positive influence on the nearby churches and saints. This amazing work of faith began with their attitude of listening to God's word. Because they did not accept the words of God that Paul preached as the words of man, but as the words of God, the power of the words continued to work.

2) So far, what has been my attitude toward receiving the Word of God during public worship or private QT? What kind of attitude should we adopt in the future?

■ Upper Grades

How did I listen to the Word of God during worship last week? What kind of mind and attitude should we have when we listen to God's word in the future ?

■ Lower Grades

How do I listen to God in worship? What kind of heart and shape should we listen to in the future?

□ Question Guide

We need to remember that the growth of our faith and God's work are accomplished through God's word. Look back at how you have listened to God's word during worship or personal QT. And think about how things need to change in the future.

□ Commentary for India

The key to the Thessalonian Saints' growth as exemplary believers in a short period of time was their attitude toward God's Word. They listened to God's word and not as man's word, and even after Paul left Thessalonica, he was able to grow into a man of faith who showed "the work of faith, the labor of love, and the perseverance of hope" in God's work. Compare the attitude of the Thessalonian saints with the attitude of receiving the word and the attitude of receiving the word of me. In addition to the sermons you hear in public worship services, Sogrup, Take care of how your faith is growing through the time you encounter the Word of God in your daily life, such as family worship, personal QT, and sermon broadcasts. Also, think about how your attitude toward the Word of God should change in the future.

≡ 5. Be grateful

Thank God for allowing us to freely hear the words of truth and life everywhere.

≡ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for giving us the freedom to listen, read, and learn. Whenever we listen to a sermon and read the Bible, please help us receive it as a word from You and follow it. So, please let us enjoy the blessing of the power of the Word in our lives.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"
