

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—paralabontes logon akoēs par' hēmōn tou Theou edexasthe ou logon anthrōpōn alla kathōs estin alēthōs logon Theou (παραλαβόντες λόγον ἀκοῆς παρ' ἡμῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐδέξασθε οὐ λόγον ἀνθρώπων ἀλλὰ καθώς ἔστιν ἀληθῶς λόγον Θεοῦ). The contrast is emphatic: not logon anthrōpōn (word of men) but logon Theou (word of God). This grounds biblical authority—Scripture isn't human wisdom but divine revelation.

Which effectually worketh also in you that believe (hos kai energeitai en hymin tois pisteuousin, ὃς καὶ ἐνεργεῖται ἐν ὑμῖν τοῖς πιστεύουσιν)—energeitai (present middle, 'is working/is effective') indicates continuous supernatural operation. God's word doesn't return void (Isaiah 55:11) but accomplishes transformation in believers. The Thessalonians' perseverance (v. 14), transformation from idols (1:9), and reproducing faith (1:8) proved the word's effectual working. Divine word produces divine results through divine power, distinguishing true Scripture from human philosophy.

Historical Context

The Thessalonians' recognition that Paul's preaching was God's word, not human opinion, explains their willingness to suffer persecution for it. Ancient philosophers offered competing wisdom traditions—Stoics, Epicureans, Cynics—but these were acknowledged human speculation. The gospel came with divine authority (1:5), confirming Paul's apostolic claim to revelation (Gal 1:11-12). This conviction that Scripture is God's inerrant word has sustained martyrs throughout church history; those who view it as merely human religious literature rarely suffer for it.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What evidence demonstrates that you receive Scripture as God's authoritative word rather than human religious opinion?
2. How does recognizing the Bible as God's word 'effectually working' change your approach to reading, studying, and obeying it?
3. In what ways has the word of God demonstrably 'worked effectively' in your life, producing transformation beyond human capability?

Interlinear Text

διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ Θεῷ
cause For this also we thank G3588 God
G1223 G5124 G2532 G2249 G2168 G2316

ἀδιαλείπτως ὅτι παραλαβόντες λόγον ἀκοῆς
without ceasing because when ye received as the word which ye heard
G89 G3754 G3880 G3056 G189

παρ' ἡμῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐδέξασθε οὐ λόγον ἀνθρώπων
of us G3588 God ye received it not as the word of men
G3844 G2257 G2316 G1209 G3756 G3056 G444

ἀλλὰ καθώς ἐστιν ἀληθῶς λόγον Θεοῦ ὃς καὶ
but as it is in truth as the word God which also
G235 G2531 G2076 G230 G3056 G2316 G3739 G2532

ἐνεργεῖται ἐν ὑμῖν τοῖς πιστεύουσιν
effectually worketh in you G3588 that believe
G1754 G1722 G5213 G4100

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:12 (Word): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Romans 10:17 (Faith): So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23 (Word): Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:25 (Word): But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 2:2 (Word): As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Luke 11:28 (Word): But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Acts 13:48 (Faith): And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Galatians 4:14 (References God): And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Acts 17:11 (Word): These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

1 John 3:3 (Parallel theme): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

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