

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

**Meaning:** Paul said the Thessalonians incarnated the Word

**Big Idea:** We must flesh out the Word of God

**Objective:** I want the hearers to flesh out the Word of God

**Theme:**

According to the [National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators](#) it is a real possibility that you have unclaimed assets being held by the government. About 1 in 7 people — 33 million altogether — collectively have an estimated \$70 billion worth of unclaimed property being held by state treasurers,.

The types of assets that end up with states range from uncashed [paychecks](#) or rebate checks to inactive [brokerage accounts](#) and unpaid [life insurance](#) benefits. The state of Tennessee has 1.2 billion dollars in unclaimed property by itself. The average value of each claim is \$2,080, according to the group. Last year, about \$4 billion in property was returned to rightful owners.

Each year on Feb. 1, the group holds “Unclaimed Property Day,” when it encourages people [to check missingmoney.com](#) — a national clearinghouse for unclaimed assets that most states participate in — or an individual state’s unclaimed property website.

THE SAME IS TRUE FOR MANY CHRISTIANS WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL ASSETS. IN CHRIST WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE INHERITANCE THAT IS OURS TO CLAIM NOW – PEACE, JOY, POWER, WISDOM, COMFORT. HOW DO WE GET IT? BY GETTING IN THE WORD OF GOD!

BY DAILY READING GOD’S WORD AND APPLYING IT TO YOUR LIFE YOU GROW IN CHRIST AND CLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS IN CHRIST!

**IT’S BEEN SAID** - A Bible that is falling apart is indicative of a life that is not.

**Child of God** – WE DON’T NEED LESS WORD IN OUR LIFE IN THESE CRAZY DAYS WE ARE LIVING IN – WE NEED MORE OF THE WORD! WE NEED MORE SERMONS, MORE BIBLE STUDY, MORE BIBLE PODCASTS. WE NEED MORE JESUS AND MORE CHURCH IN THESE DAYS NOT LESS!

### **READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**

*How do you claim what is yours in the gospel?*

### **RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD**

Receive here means to take to oneself or to fully embrace. It and the word accepted have a very similar meaning. So, the Christians at Thessalonica didn’t just hear a sermon and go home. They didn’t just listen to a 5 minute drive by devotional every now and again. THEY FULLY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE WORD OF GOD AND GRABBED HOLD OF IT FOR THEMSELVES.

### **AS Supernatural**

They received it for what it really is – THE WORD OF GOD! Church – the Bible is GOD’S WORD!

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

66 books

40 writers

1500 years

Penned out by eye witnesses during the time of many other eye witnesses. Perfectly consistent message – God made us – made us to know and enjoy Him – but we sought to find our identity in worldly

things – sin – sinners – hopeless but not helpless – because Christ came to rescue us – He died in our place – rose from the dead – freely offers us eternal life.

GOD WROTE A BOOK – THE BIBLE – THAT’S WHAT MAKES IT TRANSFORMATIVE. IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER VIEW IT LOSES IT’S POWER IN YOUR LIFE

**Charles Spurgeon**

When you begin to judge the Bible it is no longer a judge of you.

**PASTOR ONCE SAID** - *The inspiration of the Bible depends on the ignorance of the gentleman who reads it.*

**AS Directional**

**James 1:22**

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

**Psalm 119:105** – Your Word is a LAMP unto my feet and a LIGHT for my path.

The Christians at Thessalonica became imitators of the believers. They didn’t read the Bible TO GET AN EDUCATION. They read it for IMITATION!

That’s what God’s Word is for – it shows us God’s best for life. Jesus didn’t nullify the law when he died on the cross – he fulfilled it. He is the one who gives us life – and it is His Spirit that gives us the desire and the ability to obey that law.

**Robby Gallaty** – *YOU HAVE TO GET IN THE WORD UNTIL IT GETS IN YOU.*

**2 REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A REAL MAN:**

- 1. You don’t rely upon instructions to put things together**
- 2. You don’t rely solely on your GPS to get to your destination**

The other day Chrystal and I were traveling somewhere and there was a backup on the interstate so I decided to take another way around. The GPS kept telling me to go one way but I kept going a different way around. Needless to say we got a little off track. God has given us His GPS – God’s Plan for Success – it is right here in the Bible. When we fail to read and follow it we end up at the wrong destination.

THEY DIDN’T JUST GET IN THE WORD – THEY GOT IN THE WORD TO GET A WORD! They didn’t get in the Word to get smarter – they got in the Word to WALK STRAIGHTER.

THE WORD OF GOD IS MEANT TO BE APPRECIATED AND APPLIED NOT MERELY READ

That’s what Paul says here at the believers. He says they heard the Word and they received and accepted the Word, and that it was at work in them.

**HOW DO YOU HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE BIBLE?**

Romans 12 tells us not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind to God’s truth. God’s Word is living and active and it has power. The goal of Bible study is a changed life not more knowledge.

**2 Timothy 3:7** – Difficult times will come, people will be narcissistic and sinful – some will have the appearance of godliness but they will deny it’s power.....Always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

### **Open in Prayer**

The Scriptures are not enough in and of themselves if we don't allow the Holy Spirit of God to speak to our hearts and convict us.

### **John 16:13**

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

### **1 Samuel 3:10**

Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

### **Get out a Pen**

### **Psalm 119:11**

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

### **Psalm 1:1-2**

Blessed is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

A dull pencil is better than a sharp mind

### **Open Your Heart**

### **Joshua 1:8**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

To read the word and not do it is deceptive. God doesn't call us to read the Bible. He calls us to obey the Bible. Don't deceive yourself. It's not about reading for reading sake, it's about reading for doing's sake.

### **Ezra 7:10**

For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

### **Tell Someone Else**

### **Colossians 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

You share about what you care about.