

Glorifying - cont.

They applied God's word and let it work in their daily lives (1 Thessalonians 2:11,13; John 15:8; 17:4) and toward others (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12).

5. They heeded and held to the call of God's word

*But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, for that God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye were taught, whether by word, or by epistle of ours.
(2 Thess. 2:13-15)*

The Thessalonians glorified God's word by obeying God in the midst of a pagan society (1 Thessalonians 1:9). And, they did not change the pattern of God's word (2 Timothy 1:13; Leviticus 10:1-3).

Friend, the Bible is the most popular book in the world and the most neglected book. Will you glorify God's word today in your life?

- Chris Reeves -

- Word of the Week -

"Hope" (Gr. *elpis*) is a word that speaks of optimism. It springs from a trust in God that he will always do what he has promised for his people. One main source of hope for the Christian is the scriptures (Romans 15:4). This is one reason why we need to read the Bible often - to keep our hope alive in difficult times. Let's go out and live with faith, love, and hope.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Glorify means to honor and respect. Often today, many people honor and respect the things of man. However, we need to be glorifying the things of God since we will meet him one day in judgment. One way to glorify God is to glorify his word; that is, to hear it and obey it.

How is God's word glorified? Do we glorify God's word by simply carrying a Bible? No. Do we glorify God's word by simply putting a Bible out for display? No. Do we glorify God's word by simply talking about it? No. Do we glorify God's word by despising it? No. In the New Testament, the Thessalonians glorified God's word (2 Thessalonians 3:1). Let's see how they did it.

1. They received it in much affliction

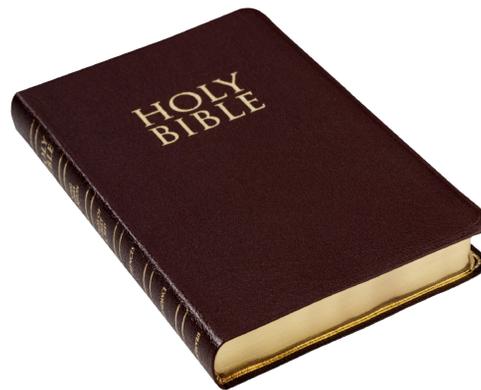
And ye became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit
(1 Thessalonians 1:6)

The Thessalonians glorified God's word by obeying the gospel in the midst of opposition (1 Thessalonians 2:2, 14; 3:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-6; Acts 17:1ff; see Acts 13:48). They also became an example to others in how

to face affliction the right way (Matthew 5:12-16; Philippians 2:15-16).

2. They proclaimed the word of God to others

For from you hath sounded forth the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith to God-ward is gone forth; so that we need not to speak anything
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)



The Thessalonians glorified God's word by sharing it. They knew the world needed what they had received - the saving gospel - so they proclaimed it to others (Romans 1:16; 3:23; 6:23). They did not selfishly hold on to the gospel, but passed it on to others (2 Timothy 2:2).

3. They received the gospel as the word of God

And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also works in you that believe
(1 Thessalonians 2:13)

The Thessalonians glorified God's word by regarding it as having a divine source and a divine purpose (1 Thessalonians 1:5; Matthew 21:25; Galatians 1:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). They accepted it as the actual word of God and not as the words of men. They discerned between man's word and God's word and received God's word (1 Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11).

4. They lived by the gospel so as to please God

Finally then, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as ye received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, even as ye do walk,—that ye abound more and more
(1 Thessalonians 4:1)

The Thessalonians glorified God's word by turning to God to work, labor, and serve him (1 Thessalonians 1:3, 9-10; 2 Thessalonians 3:4). - cont.