

v.13 For this reason

- we have seen one reason for thanks in chapter 1 verses 3-4
- now we that they realized that the teaching was from God and not from man and received it as such.

- the emphasis is on the “word heard from us” *see Romans 10:14*

- you received- Jesus says let him who has ears to hear, hear,
- parable of soils- 1st soil- *see Luke 8*
- effectual working- it will change us

- *1Pe 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, (23) having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the word of God** which lives and abides forever,*

- *2Ti 3:16-17 **All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- *Heb 4:12-13 **For the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

- *Isa 55:11 **So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.***

- *Joh 17:16-19 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (17) **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.** (18) As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. (19) And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

- you who believe- if it isn't changing you, do you really believe it ?

v.14 imitators- Greek mimeomai- mimic

followers, Elvis impersonators

- how do get to be imitator? Hang around, study, watch

- churches in Christ Jesus- sphere or environment in which one dwells; ie birds in the air, fish in the sea, tree roots in the soil

v.15 The world will persecute us to some degree

- contrary to all men- closed and hostile to sharing the faith-

v.16 filling up the measure of their sins and bringing wrath

- see *Rom 9:22* *What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,*

v.17-18 Satan hindered as he will any work that is of God

- How do we know Satan is hindering and not God ?

1) what is the instrument ? anything keeping us from holiness, usefulness, humility, service is not from God

2) what is the method ? bad thought, teaching or doctrine is not from God

3) what is the nature ? if it lifts us up it is wrong

4) out of season- temptation from nowhere

5) when in doubt, ask for wisdom- *James 1:5* *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

- How do we respond ? If it is discerned that it is of Satan, persevere.

v.19-20 Paul's attitude toward them- they are his reward

- crowns

- incorruptible- *1Co 9:24-25* *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. (25) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

- life- *Jas 1:12* Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

and *Rev 2:10* Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- righteousness- *2Ti 4:8* Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- glory- *1Pe 5:2-4* Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; (3) nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; (4) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

- rejoicing here

- your reward through this ministry- India, Ukraine, Servant Quarters, Crisis Pregnancy Center

v.19 His coming- Greek word parousia- technical term for the arrival or visit of a king