

**LOOKING FOR JESUS**  
*"Saints and Suffering"*  
**1 Thessalonians 2:14-20**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. When we examine faith we will find there are basically 2 kinds:
  - a) The **"IF"** kind of faith
  
  - b) AND the **"THOUGH"** kind of faith
    - 1) **Job 13:15a**
      - a. **Though** he slay me, yet will I trust in Him"
  
2. The Thessalonian Believer's had the **"THOUGH"** kind of faith.
  - a) **1:6-8**

**I. ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR THE GOSPEL**

**1. Vs 14**

a) *"For you brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea."*

1) **Acts 7:54-8:4**

- Notice Jesus' posture - He's **standing!!!**

2) **Acts 9:1-19**

3) **Acts 12:1-4**

**2. Vs 14**

a) *"for you became imitators"*

1) **Acts 17:1-4; 8:8,10**

**3. Acts 1:6**

a) *"with the joy of the Holy Spirit"*

**4. Vs 15**

5. For true **"Disciples of Christ"** a willingness to suffer is one of the proofs of a true Believer.

**6. 2 Timothy 3:12**

a) **"will"** - not maybe or might.

7. Corrie Ten Boom - "The Hiding Place" - Thanks for the Fleas

8. John 15:20; 16:33

## II. CHARGES AGAINST THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE GOSPEL (6 Charges)

### A. THEY PERSECUTED THE LORD & THE PROPHETS

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:15

a) "*who killed both the Lord Jesus and the Prophets*"

### B. THEY PERSECUTED BELIEVERS

1. Vs 15

a) "*and drove us out*"

### C. THEY DISPLEASED GOD

1. Vs 15

a) "*and displeased God*"

### D. THEY WITHSTOOD ALL MEN

1. Vs 15

a) "*and oppose all mankind*"

2. The Jews loved themselves.

### E. THEY PROHIBITED GODS MESSAGE

1. Vs 16

a) "*by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles*"

1) "*hinder*" is a military term, used to describe the destruction of roads and bridges which stifles the advance of the invading army.

### F. THEY DEMONSTRATED THEY WERE EVIL

1. Vs 16

a) "*so as always to fill up the measure of their sins*"

b) "*But God's wrath has come upon them at last*"

### III. THE FORCE BEHIND THE OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL

#### 1. Vs 17

a) "*But since we were torn away from you brothers.*"

1) "*torn away*" - means to be orphaned!

b) "*we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face*"

1) "*great desire*" - indicates strong passion

#### 2. Vs 18

a) "*Because we wanted to come to you-I, Paul, again and again, -but Satan hindered us*"

1) "*hindered*" - is a military term used to describe the disruption of roads and bridges which would slow the progress of an invading army.

#### 3. *Ephesians 6:10-12*

a) "*schemes*" - deception, craftiness

### A. SATAN CAN DECEIVE

1. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

### B. SATAN CAN DERAIL

1. *Acts 5:3*

### C. SATAN CAN DEVOUR

1. *1 Peter 5:8*

a) "*devour*" - means to gobble up, to consume.

2. **WOW!!!!** Satan's goal is to consume/remove your influence!!

a) Through **defeat**.

b) Through **discouragement**

c) Through **defeat**

3. Vs 18

a) "*but Satan hindered us*"

4. What a message for believers today: Satan is in the business of hindering the saints of God...one way or another.

5. 1 Peter 5:8

6. James 4:7

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Vs 19-20

2. The glory to come to believers when Christ returns, is powerful motivation for our service.

3. Paul asks 3 questions:

- a) What is our **hope**?
- b) What is our **joy**?
- c) What is our "**Crown of boasting**?"

4. A crown was awarded to those who won an athletic event.

- a) "The Crown of Life"
  - 1) James 1:2
  
- b) "The Incorruptible Crown"
  - 1) 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
  
- c) "The Crown of Righteousness"
  - 1) 2 Timothy 4:8
  
- d) "The Crown of Glory"
  - 1) 1 Peter 5:2-4
  
- e) "The Crown of Rejoicing/Boasting"
  - 1) 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20