

“The Triumph of God in the Working Out of His Will Through His Word”

1 Thess. 2:13-16

The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People

The truth of God is marching on accomplishing His will in the life of His people.

I. The Power of His Word (vv. 13, 16)

The Word of God is described as “performing its work in you who believe.” What a refreshing thought! As the Word of God goes forth, power is unleashed.

The Word of God functions as a channel for the power of God. Observe the following verses: (Isa. 55:11; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2:5; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21; 1 Pt. 1:23).

A. The Power of His Word to sustain saints (vv.13-16)

This Word is so powerful it is able to “turn them to God from idols to serve the true and living God and to make them wait for His Son from heaven.”

God is faithful to sustain His people in the midst of their persecution.

Paul gives us three distinct thoughts concerning Jewish unbelief:

- Its violent manifestations.
- Its sad evaluation.
- Its fatal outcome.

B. The Power of His Word to save sinners (v.16)

The Word of God is the divine means used to save sinners.

II. The Mystery of His Ways (vv. 16, 18)

First, while all truths are equally true, not all truths operate on the same level.

Second, based on verse 16, are we to believe that God wanted to do something in the saving of Gentile sinners, but prohibited from doing it because of the opposition of the Jews?

Continued on the other side...

Third, let us assume that you put the will of man over the rule of God, what is the possible outcome of such a shift in our context?

Fourth, let us assume that you put the rule of God over the will of man, what is the possible outcome of such a shift in our context?

Fifth, I am completely convinced that much of the tension that exists between the rule of God and the will of man for several reasons.

In light of this, we need to have tremendous humility, charity, and teachability. This truth requires a certain level of flexibility and understanding. So that we can have a difference of opinion and still be one body.

You as an image bearer have a will - chose wisely, but find comfort knowing that you and your choice are part of a larger master plan where all things are working together for His glory and your good.