**REACTIONS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**I Thessalonians 2:13-14**

**13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*People react to God’s word in all different kinds of ways. The truth is most church people and even the world will take parts of the Bible that suits their agenda and makes a handy quote, or they take a part of the Bible that makes them feel good about themselves. They will even take verses out of context to justify their wrongdoings or even justify their sins. Some folks will read a passage about how God will bless and benefit them, but they will ignore the part that says, “if you will repent,” or “if you call on my name.” However, the Bible is not a menu for you to pick and choose from only the parts you like and want.**

**\*\*Here is an example of how one young lady took a Bible verse to suit her particular cause:**

**Illustration: There were two Christian teenagers that started dating. These new lovebirds really wanted to kiss each other, but they both agreed they needed a Bible verse that spoke to them both that confirmed their kisses would be acceptable in the sight of the Lord and justified.**

 **As they were discussing this with one another, the boy thought of the verse that said, “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” However, they both agreed that was about showing brotherly love in the church. While he searched his Bible and thought on this, the girl leaned over, grabbed his face and laid a big ole wet, juicy, lip-locking, zinger of a kiss on him!**

 **He jumped up immediately in a panic and exclaimed loudly, “WE’VE GOT TO HAVE A BIBLE VERSE TO BACK UP WHAT WE JUST DID!”**

 **That’s when the girl came back immediately and said, “I’ve got a Bible verse to back up our kiss!”**

 **He said, “Well, what is it?”**

 **She said, “It’s the one that says, ‘Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you.’”**

**\*\*Just like some like to twist the scripture around to fit their actions and lifestyle, there are others who will not accept the Bible as God’s Word at all. However, that was not the case in our text.**

**\*\*Paul and the apostles were touched and thankful that these people in Thessalonica Acknowledge God’s Word, Accepted God’s Word, Approved God’s Word, and Adopted God’s Word just as it was presented to them! That will bless any preacher!**

 **A. To them God’s Word was Factual Truth!**

 **1. They accepted it as Authentic.**

 **2. They accepted it as Accurate.**

 **B. To them God’s Word wasn’t Fictional Tales!**

**\*\*It wasn’t Man-Made, Manipulative, nor Misrepresentative! How refreshing and what a blessing!**

**\*\*So let’s ask this: How do you react to God’s Word?**

**\*\*Your Reaction to the Word of God Does Matter!**

**I. NOTICE THE REACTION WAS RECEIVING**

**\*\*Paul said they received God’s Word as the Truth!**

**\*\*Do you receive God’s Word as truth? Do you believe the entire Bible to be true? If so, LIVE IT!**

**\*\*Here is how we need to receive the Word of God:**

 **A. God’s Word should be received as Him**

**John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**

 **1. To be one of His Christians, you must receive God’s Word as being Him.**

 **2. To be one of His Children, you must receive God’s Word as being Him.**

**\*\*It’s impossible to be saved and not receive and believe the Bible as being God and God’s Word!**

 **B. God’s Word should be received as Honest**

**II Timothy 3:16 16**[**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Timothy-3-16/)

**Proverbs 30:5-6 5**[**Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-30-5/) **6**[**Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-30-6/)

 **1. There’s no need to Re-worked this trustworthy Book.**

 **2. There’s no need to Re-worded this truthful Book.**

 **C. God’s Word should be received as Healthy**

**Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.**

[**Psalms 119:103**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-119-103/)**- How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**\*\*Like a baby, you must learn to 1) Digest God’s Word 2) Desire God’s Word when you get borned again!**

**II. NOTICE THE REACTION WAS RESPECT**

**\*\*In Nehemiah chapter 8, we see respect for God’s Word.**

 **A. God’s People Respected God’s Word with their Way**

**Nehemiah 8:5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:**

 **1. We stand because this Book is Heavenly!**

 **2. We stand because this Book is Holy!**

**B. God’s People Respected God’s Word with their Words**

**Nehemiah 8:6a And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen,**

**\*\*When you say, “Amen,” you are blessing the Savior of God’s Word and the Spirit of God’s Word! You are confirming . . .**

 **1. God’s Word is a Firm Truth.**

 **2. God’s Word is a Faithful Truth.**

**\*\*You would be surprise at how our services would be more Spirit-filled if you men would just bless the Lord with a good hearty “Amen!”**

**\*\* If you men won’t do it, then would you women please say, “Amen!”?**

**III. NOTICE THE REACTION WAS RESPONDING**

**\*\*God wants us to react to God’s Word by Responding!**

 **A. Respond with your Willingness**

**II Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.**

**\*\*In order to respond properly to God’s Word, you must first have an open mind to hear God’s Word and be willing to pay attention to God’s Word.**

**\*\*Willing means you will have a zeal and you’ll be eager.**

 **1. Preaching God’s Word is provided for you to Listen.**

 **a. Listen to the Only Christ in God’s Word**

 **b. Listen to the Obvious Call in God’s Word**

 **2. Preaching God’s Word is provided for you to Learn.**

 **a. Respond by learning how to Live Godly.**

 **b. Respond by learning how to Love God.**

 **3. Preaching God’s Word is provided for you to Love.**

 **a. Willingly fall in love with the Beliefs that come from God’s Book.**

 **b. Willingly fall in love with the Blessings that come from God’s Book.**

**\*\*If you’re not willing to Listen, to Learn, and to Love God’s Word, then you will never be willing to respond to God’s Word.**

 **B. Respond with your Weeping**

**Nehemiah 8:9b For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.**

**\*\*Not many people weep over God’s Word anymore.**

 **1. Weep over the Seriousness of your Sin and Repent?**

 **2. Weep over the State of your Soul and Repent?**

 **3. Weep over the Salvation of your Soul and Rejoice?**

**\*\*Hell has enlarged itself because people no longer respond to God’s Word with heart-felt brokenness and weeping!**

**IV. NOTICE THE REACTION WAS REJOICING**

 **A. Rejoice by Joyfully Worshiping in the Service**

**Nehemiah 8:6b lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.**

**\*\*They respected God’s Word so much that they worshiped God by . . .**

 **1. Lifting their Hands before the Lord and Worshiped.**

 **2. Lowering their Heads before the Lord and Worshiped.**

 **3. Laying their Hearts before the Lord and Worshiped.**

**\*\*Make yourself humble before the Lord if you really respect God’s Holy Word**

**\*\*This altar should be full each service with people responding to God’s Word by offering Repentance Prayers, Re-enforcement Prayers, or Rejoicing Prayers.**

 **B. Rejoice by Joyously Walking in the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:16 - This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

**\*\*If you have responded to God’s Word rightly, then you will Walk in the Spirit and rejoice . . .**

 **1. When you take a Walk into the Sanctuary**

**I Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus:**

**Psalms 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

 **2. When you take a Walk in the Scriptures**

**Psalms 1:1-2 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly . . . 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:**

**CLOSE**

**1. How will you react to God’s Word today?**

 **a. Will you receive it?**

 **b. Will you respect it?**

 **c. Will you respond to it?**

 **d. Will you rejoice in it?**

**2. Respond to the preaching of God’s Word right now!**

 **a. Come willing to Weep.**

 **\*\*Weep over the Seriousness of your Sins**

 **\*\*Weep over the State of your Soul**

 **>You know you’re Lost and you need the Savior**

 **>You know you’re Lost and you need this Salvation**

 **b. Come willing to Walk.**

**\*\*Step out and be willing to walk down the aisle and . . .**

 **>Follow Jesus in His Salvation**

 **>Follow Jesus in His Spirit**

 **>Follow Jesus in His Sanctuary**

 **c. Come willing to Worship**

 **\*\*Will you come and Lower your Head on this Altar?**

 **\*\*Will you come and Lay your Heart on this Altar?**

 **\*\*Will you come and Lift your Hands on this Altar?**

**3. The Lord is telling us today, “I need a reaction. I need a response!”**

**Top of Form**