

## **DON'T GIVE UP!**

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

In this passage, Paul lays out the resources that were available to the Thessalonians—and are equally available to us—for coping with times of hostility and suffering. In our society today, we are fortunate to not have to face open political or social persecution. However, if we want to be faithful to Jesus, we will inevitably face antagonism of various kinds. According to 2 Timothy 3:13, "*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*" This is, of course, no fun! So, when such pressures arise, so does the temptation to give up. For this reason, it is important to understand the spiritual resources of which we can avail ourselves to 'keep on keeping on' when the "heat" is on.

### 1. God's word in us, 13

- Explain how the word of God works in people to (a) to bring them to faith and (b) to keep them going and growing.
- How can you apply Colossians 3:16a to your life?

### 2. God's people around us, 14-16

- Have you experienced antagonism from others because of your faith?
- Do you have an example of how other believers encouraged you when you were "attacked" by non-believers?
- How would you go about encouraging a Christian who is being accused of "hate speech" because he takes a firm stand on biblical truth (for example, regarding the exclusive claims of Christ, LGBTQ ideology, abortion, pornography, etc.)?

### 3. God's glory before us, 17-20

- "Paul lived in both the *present tense* and the *future tense*." What is the significance of this for coping with times of trouble?
- What is the Judgment Seat of Christ? (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 4:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:9-10)
- What is the best way to prepare for the Judgment Seat of Christ? (1 Cor. 4:2; Matt. 25:21)