

**“More Thanksgiving to God”
(1Thessalonians 2:13-16)**

- A. Thanks given for the manner in which the word was received (1Th. 2:13)**
- B. Paul explained why he gave thanks (1Th. 2:14-16a).**
- C. The plight of the persecutors (1Th. 2:16b).**

A. Thanks given for the manner in which the word was received (1Th. 2:13)

- 1. “For this reason” (cf. 1Th. 2:1-12), “we also constantly thank God”**
- 2. The content of thanksgiving: “that when you received the word of God which you heard from us” – notice the contrast:**
 - “you accepted it not as the word of men”**
 - “but for what it really is, the word of God” –**

- ❑ **Very important: “which also performs its work in you who believe.”**

B. Paul explained why he gave thanks (1Th. 2:14-16a).

- 1. (vs. 14) “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea”**

Map of Ancient Judea



B. Paul explained why he gave thanks (1Th. 2:14-16a).

- 1. (vs. 14) “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea”**
- 2. Then he explained their similarity: “for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,”**

- 3. Paul then described what the Jews did:**
 - a. (vs. 15) “who both killed the Lord Jesus**
 - b. and the prophets,**
 - c. and drove us out.” So it is safe to say**
 - 1) “They are not pleasing to God,**
 - 2) but hostile to all men,”**

4. (vs. 16) Here is how that hostility found expression: “hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they might be saved.” This had the immediate “result that they always fill up the measure of their sins.”
Maximized sinning!

C. The plight of the persecutors (1Th. 2:16b).

- ❖ “But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.” This is not a reference to the lake of fire, but to temporal judgment in its worst form, culminating in the tribulation period.