

THE FOUNDATION OF GENUINE CHRISTIANITY

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

- What is the ultimate foundation of genuine biblical Christianity?
- What do we learn from *John 1:1-4*?
- What do we learn from *John 1:10-14*?
- Is there a difference between the Word of God and Jesus Christ? Explain
- What is learned from *Matt 24:35*?
- How long does the foundation of genuine Christianity last?

They RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD

1 Thess. 2:13

- What do we learn about some of the people of Thessalonica *in Acts 17:5-10* after Paul taught there the first time?
- What does *Matt. 7:24-27* tell us about those who hear the Word of God and follow God's Word versus those that hear the Word of God and do not follow the Word of God?
- Even though Paul was chased out of Thessalonica (*Acts 17*), who was send back to Thessalonica to help build a strong relationship with the new believers and God?

They ACCEPTED THE WORD OF GOD

Thess. 2:13b

“You accepted it not as the word of men, but as what it really is, THE WORD OF GOD...”

- If the “messenger” is not the “foundation” of the truth upon which genuine Christianity is built, what is?
- God has used many different people, believers and non-believers to proclaim the message, the Word of God. Discuss the following parts of the bible and how the word of God was shared.

Numbers 22-24 (especially 24:15-17), Daniel 6:25-28 and Acts 16:16-17.

That they BENEFITED FROM THE WORD OF GOD

1 Thess. 2:13 b- 20

“which is at work in you”

- What does the Word of God do in us? (**Heb. 4:12**)
- Once we accept the Word of God, what are some of the benefits we receive? (**2 Tim. 3:14-17**)
- What makes our relationship with God and one another different from other relationships?
- What does **1 Thess. 2:14-16** tell us will happen even when we have that genuine relationship with God?
- What is Satan telling us?
- What is Paul telling us in **1 Thess. 2:17-19** about true relationships and separations?
- How does Paul summarize the truth he was teaching about the Word of God in **1 Thess. 2:19-20**?

APPLICATION

- How do you prepare your heart every Sunday morning to receive and welcome the preached Word from Pastor?
- Do you spend time in God’s Word throughout the week with the goal of getting closer to God?
- Are you willing to suffer hardship for the gospel?
- In this chapter, Paul makes an emotional appeal for the Thessalonians not to give up. He wants them to “finish well.” How does this apply to you?
- What spiritual battles are you facing that hinder you from walking in God’s Word?