

## Sermon Text Discussion 9/11/2016

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1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 – “The Transforming Power of God’s Word” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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As followers of Christ, we are called to grow as disciples. As a church, we seek to develop and grow a culture of discipleship by God’s Spirit. Just as God spoke the world into existence, we are reliant on him to speak his Word into our hearts that we may grow as his disciples. This text in 1 Thessalonians shows us four things about God’s Word:

- 1) How God’s Word comes
- 2) How God’s Word is received
- 3) What God’s Word does
- 4) Where God’s Word leads

As we seek to saturate our lives with the Word of God, may we never cease to be amazed at the miracle of conversion God’s Word brings. And, may we seek to spread the Word of God to all who haven’t heard, knowing that the words of life and ultimate joy lie within.

### Quotations

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“Preaching is more than the oral communication of information... we should think in terms of what might be called ‘re-revelation.’ ...Preachers must bear this in mind. Their aim is more than to explain the Bible, however important that aim is. They want the proclamation of God’s Word to be a revelatory event, a moment when God discloses himself afresh, a time when the people of God know that they have met with the living God.”

-Don Carson

“A sermon... comes with far greater power to the consciences of the hearers when it is plainly the very word of God – not a lecture about the Scripture, but Scripture itself opened up and enforced. It is due to the majesty of inspiration that when you profess to be preaching from a verse you do not thrust it out of sight to make room for your own thinking.” -Charles Spurgeon

“It is not syntheses of the Word of God, not doctrinal presentations of the Word, but the very word of God itself, read, commented upon, expounded, and its parts vitally and intelligently related, that does the work in men’s hearts. –William Still

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) After reading 1 Thessalonians 2:13, how would Paul describe evangelism? Are you comfortable with your current level of knowledge and understanding of God’s Word since he uses you to make his appeal to others?
- 2) Why are the elders of Zionsville Fellowship committed to expository or expositional preaching? What are the defining characteristics of expositional preaching?
- 3) Are you fulfilling your responsibility to receive God’s Word?
- 4) What are you reading in God’s Word this week, and how is it changing you? Share with your group the most meaningful and impactful moment from your time in God’s Word from the last couple of days.
- 5) What is your current plan for reading God’s Word? How can you join others in your small group in reading the Word together?