

How is Your Reception?



1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2:9-13

No one can be neutral when it comes to God's Holy Word. There will either be a negative response or a positive response. A person's eternal destiny hinges on whether he receives or rejects God's Word.

Jesus said, "He that rejecteth Me, and **receiveth not My words**, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (*John 12:48*). People will eternally perish "because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (*2 Thess. 2:10*). They will suffer eternal damnation because they "believed not the truth" (*2 Thess. 2:12*), and God's Word is truth (*John 17:17*). "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (*Heb. 3:15*). Every time we refuse to respond to God's Word in the right way, our hearts get hard.

On the positive side, the Berean Jews "**received the Word** with all readiness [eagerness] of mind" (*Acts 17:11*). Paul proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah, and these Jews went to their Hebrew Scriptures to see if what Paul told them was true.

On the day of Pentecost, about three thousand people "**gladly received his word**" (*Acts 2:41*). They were receptive to Peter's gospel proclamation even though it was a hard pill for them to swallow because Peter laid the full responsibility of Christ's crucifixion at their feet (*Acts 2:23*). Yet, they did not reject the message, nor the messenger, and they were saved.

Paul thanked God without ceasing for the Thessalonians because they "**received the Word of God**...not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (*1 Thess. 2:13*).

It's essential that we recognize the Bible for exactly what it is: the inerrant, infallible, life-changing Word of the Living God.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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