

March 11

Scriptures: Read 1 Thessalonians 2

Key Verse: “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Overview

When it comes to religion, we live in a skeptical age, and rightly so. There are more religious systems and philosophies in our world than ever before, all demanding a hearing. There is need for skepticism — a skeptic is someone who says, “I’m not convinced, I’m not sure, but I’m open. Convince me.” The main reason for skepticism, of course, is that religious philosophies are, in the final analysis, “the word of men.” And why should we commit ourselves to something that ultimately is nothing other than the machination and construction of some mortal mind? Does that sound arrogant? It is not so in the context of eternal truth. When it comes to the destiny of my eternal soul, I want to be smart. I want to make the right choice.

That is why we need to hear “the word of God.” But how will we know it when we hear it? We’ll know it if it speaks of God made flesh and dwelling among us, “full of grace and truth.” God not only gave us the written word, He gave us the living Word — Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who lived among us, died and was buried, was resurrected the third day, appeared to many eyewitnesses, and ascended to Heaven before witnesses with the promise of His return. And, most importantly to the skeptic, Jesus did all this in history. He spoke of God, presented Himself as God’s Son (making Him equal with God), and died for our sin (thereby satisfying God’s wrath). Then He rose again to show us the way to, and the nature of, resurrected life.

We believe in Him. We trust Him. That is why His word “is at work” in us: all because of the Word — Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to live blamelessly, devoutly, and justly in this life. Thank You for Your call to us into Your own Kingdom and glory.