

3-20-22

1st Thessalonians

2:19 After all, who is our hope, our joy, our crown of boasting, if it is not you yourselves in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

1:1-10 – Escape the Coming Wrath

2:1-12 – How Paul Loved, pt 1

+ 2:13-20 – How Paul Loved, pt 2

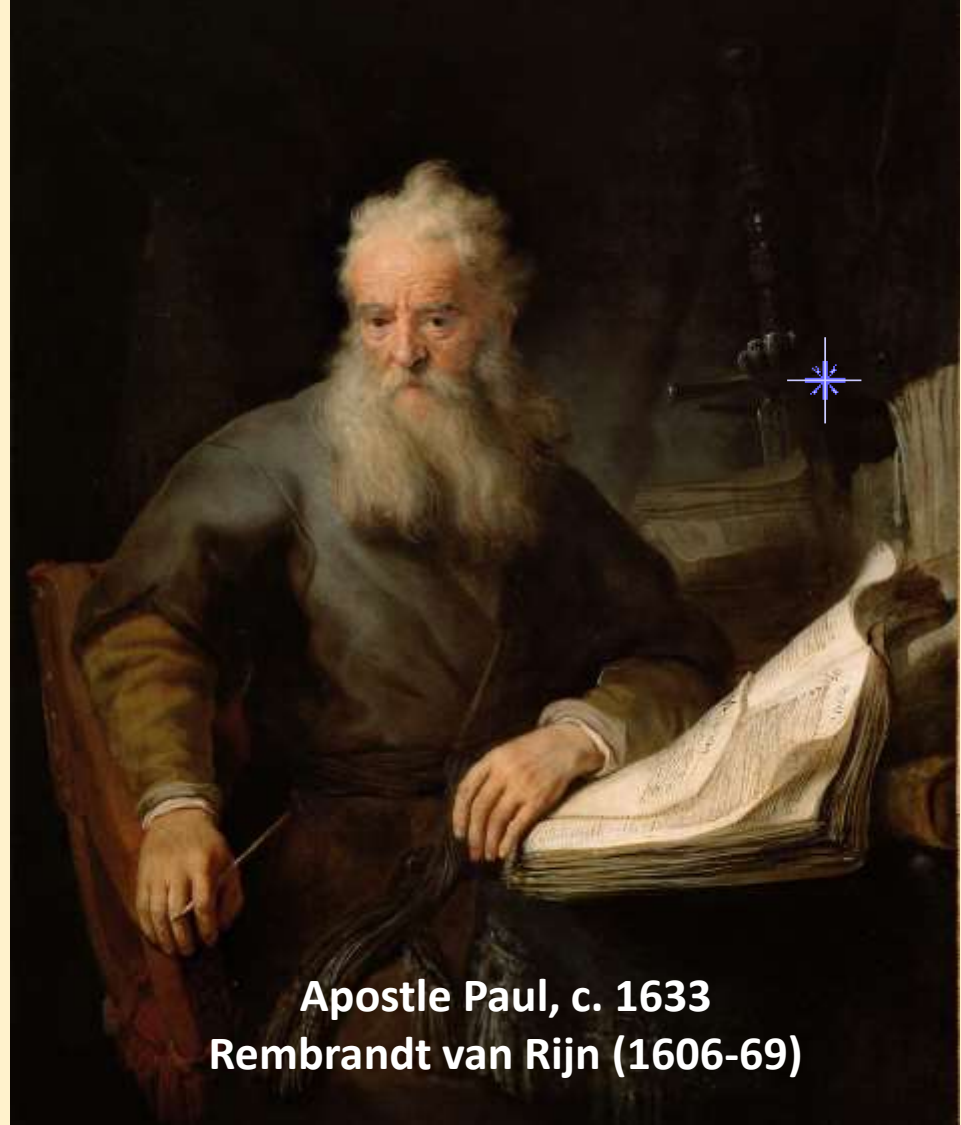
3:1-14 – Your Pastor's Heart

4:1-12 – How Holy Can You Be?

4:13-18 – Our Heavenly Rest

5:1-11 – Day of the Lord ... Are You Woke?

5:12-24 – Blameless at His Coming



Apostle Paul, c. 1633
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
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Alternate Title

How We Loved Among You

Part 2

or





Of the Letters of Love ... 1 Thessalonians

Betrays a Great Gentle Affection


Chapter 2:1-12 and 2:13-20 = How We Lived

In Great Love

1:12 – As Nursing to the ... A Father to Son



Church is a FAMILY AFFAIR



Last week ... we left off ...


2:11-12 For you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children—¹² encouraging you, comforting you, and urging you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Paul continues his DETAILING of great love between them

¹³ And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—the word which is now at work in you who believe.

After the introduction ... and Waiting for Christ

Accepted the True Word of God



Perhaps not of **critical** importance
Yet it seems worthy to believe that the
Church at Thessalonica

Existed when Paul arrived, **Paul gave it a critical boost**

Acts 17 ... during his three weeks there ...

Acts 17:4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few leading women.

Acts 17:6 When they could not find them [Paul & Silas], they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have now come here.”



Later in our passage here ...

there when Paul arrived, Paul gave it a critical boost

Acts 17 ... during his three weeks there ...

1 Thess 2:14 For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, since you have also suffered the same things from people of your own country,

Paul assumes they KNOW, perhaps from prior teaching

He goes onto to recognize their suffering from their

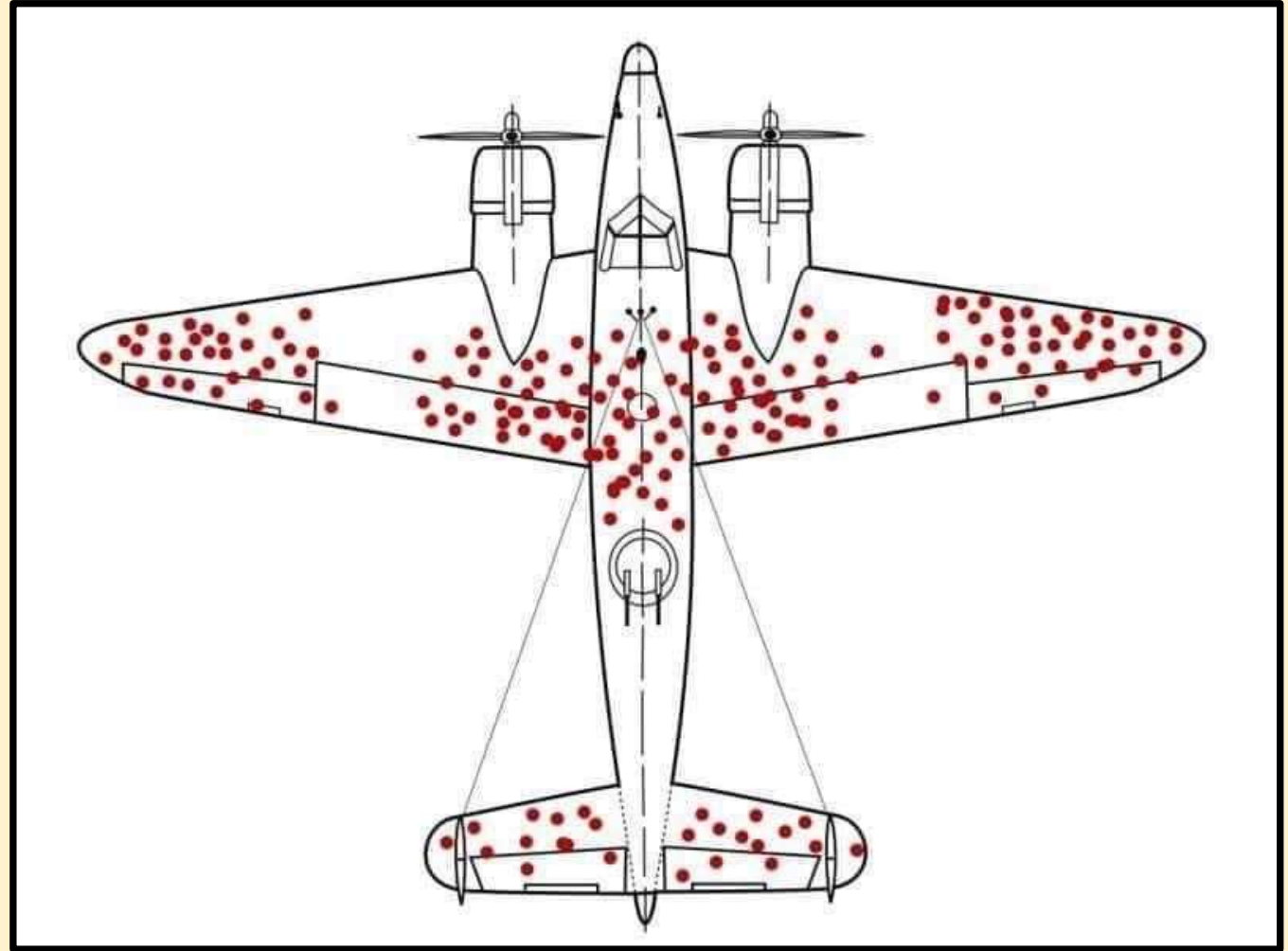
Own People

True Story ...

During World War II, fighter planes would come back from battle with bullet holes.

Allies noted the areas most commonly hit by enemy fire.

Sought to strengthen most commonly hit parts of the planes to reduce damage.

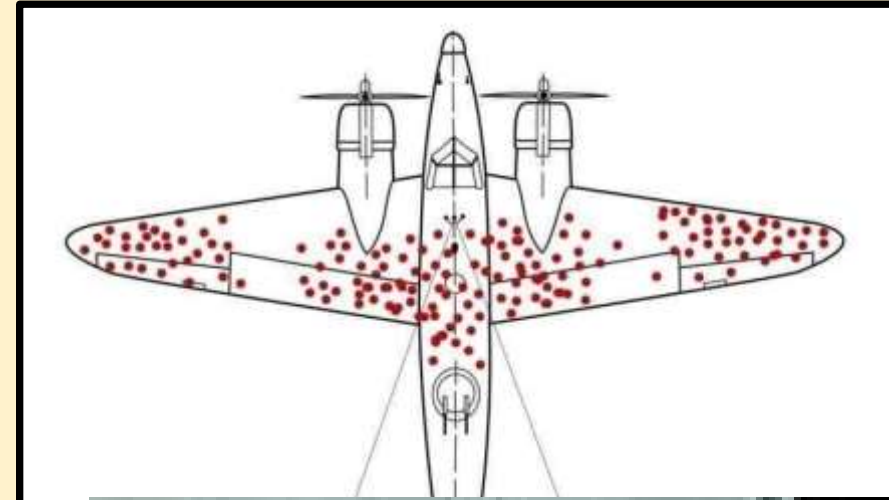


Jewish Hungarian mathematician Abraham Wald (1902-1950) founded statistical sequential analysis.

Prof. Wald looked at the data ...

Suggested ANOTHER reason certain areas of the planes weren't covered in bullet holes

**They were the Planes that RETURNED
Led to the armor being re-enforced on the plane parts w no bullet holes.**



What does that mean?

Story **BEHIND** the data is arguably more important than the data itself

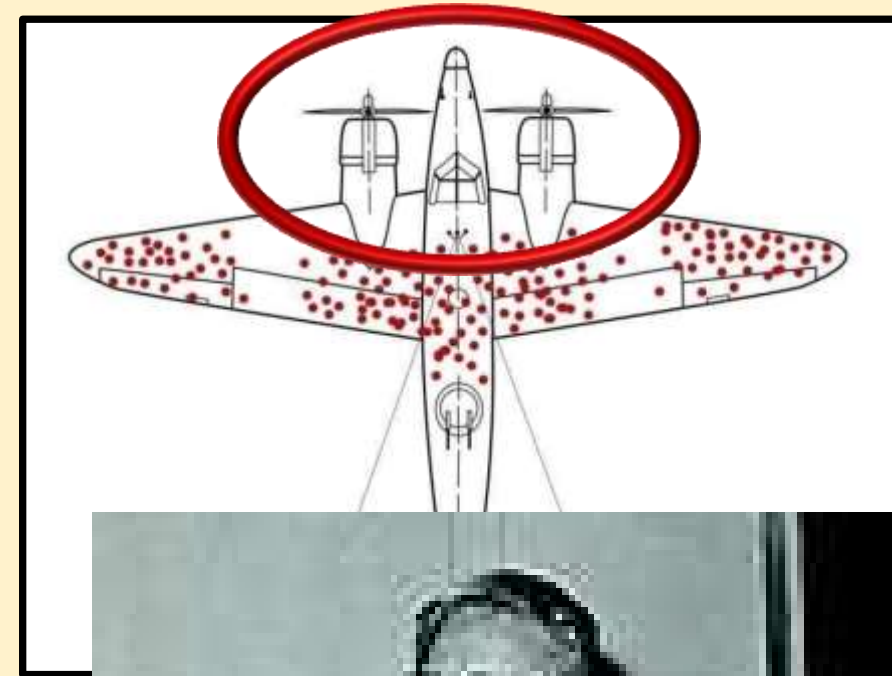
More precisely, reason behind why pieces are **MISSING** may be **MORE** meaningful than the data itself


Don't **only** listen to **what is being said.**

Sometimes ... what is **ABSENT**

Can be even **MORE IMPORTANT** to ... to

SURVIVAL






Paul continues his recollection of great love between them

¹³ **And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—the word which is now at work in you who believe.**

**What LOVE is this? ... From their Faith & Hope in
The Resurrection**

**What LOVE is this? ... from their reception of
The True Word of God**

The Church only truly GROWS from the Word of God



13 And we continually thank God because, when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—the word which is now at work in you who believe.

This is a critical insight ... “Word ... at work in you”

This is NOT a work that works in non-believers

While the “Word” can convict a non-believer

CRITICAL to know that authentic spiritual growth

Integral to Hearing the Word of God

German Theologian Karl Barth noted the

Written Word, Spoken Word, *Living* Word of God



14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Judea that are in Christ Jesus.


You suffered from your own countrymen the very things they suffered from the Jews, ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and drove us out as well. They are displeasing to God and hostile to all men,

¹⁶ hindering us from telling the Gentiles how they may be saved. As a result, they continue to heap up their sins to full capacity; the utmost wrath has come upon them.

Paul's first of 13 books, 14 if you include Hebrews

Each one has unique elements ... 1 & 2 Thess too

Jews persecuted Paul *and* Thessalonian Church



¹⁶ hindering us from telling the Gentiles how they may be saved. As a result, they continue to heap up their sins to full capacity; the utmost wrath has come upon them.

Noteworthy elements in MOST of Paul's letters

Church Persecution

Most of the 13 letters deal with some persecution

Last half of Book of Acts details Paul's missions

Here there is a WRATH that has already come to the knuckleheaded Jews persecuting the church

I do not see that as the **Coming Wrath
wish we knew more ... but we don't**

¹⁷ Brothers, although we were torn away from you for a short time—in person, not in heart—our desire to see you face to face was even more intense.

What a lovely affection ... **“not in heart”**



NIV, Good News: “not in thought” NASB: “not in spirit”

New Living Trans: “though our hearts never left”

KJV, ASV, ISV, ESV, Amplified, Berean, New American, Weymouth, Darby, Young’s, Smith’s, Geneva, Coverdale, Tyndale, and Catholic Douay-Rheims versions use:

“not in heart”



Greek uses **καρδία** / *cardia* as in cardiogram

“Torn away” said Paul, “after a short time” – as in 3 weeks!

¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you—indeed I, Paul, tried again and again—but Satan obstructed us.

This is hard to discern ... Paul & Silas forced out

Writing from Corinth ... wanting to come BACK

So much missing ... but see so much!

Greatest wonder is HOW “Satan obstructed”

We do not have time to deal with this

So much missing ... yet we can ASSUME

THEY knew more of Satan’s work *THEN*



18 wanted to come ... but Satan obstructed us.

Criminy, Paul! Christians of every Era wonder

Bare facts are that Satan works ... obstructs

See several Christian DENIALS or Fantasies

- ✓ **“Guess it was God’s will” – “God Must have ...”**
- ✓ **“God ordained everything” – “God wanted ...”**

NO! - NO! - NO! ... these are NOT ALWAYS DENIALS

Yet – however – remember that Paul clearly said

SATAN Obstructed

Do Not Deny that EVIL & Satan Work



שָׂטָן

- *LeSatan* 24x in Old Testament

Num 22:22 – God’s Angel standing before Balaam in road opposing - *sataning*

1 Sam 29:4 – David with Philistine King Achish ... Philistines warned
“He must not go down with us into battle only to become our *adversary* during the war” – our “Satan”

Proper Name in 1 Chron 21:1 – “Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.”

HOWEVER, 2 Sam. 24:1 >> God who stirs up David ??



לְשָׂטָן

- *LeSatan* 24x in Old Testament

Job 1

Zechariah 3:1

Satan is a

BEING before God



Σατανᾶς / Satan 36x in New Testament

Mark 3 & Matt 12 – Jesus in a parable asked if Satan can cast out Satan, yet not in a strong man's house

Mark 4 – Jesus' parable where Satan steals seed

Luke 11 – after driving out a demon making a man mute, Jesus notes kingdom divided in itself cannot

nor can Satan stand if he drives out his own demon



**διάβολος
diabolos 38x**

Devil

**Matt 4 – Jesus tempted
John 6 – one of you is
Eph 6 – schemes of
James 4 – resist**

Σατανᾶς/Satan 36x in New Testament

Luke 13 – Jesus heals a woman
sick 18 YEARS on the Sabbath,
calls Jews hypocrites, saying,
“should not this daughter of
Abraham, whom

Satan has kept bound for
18 long years be released?”

Well ... that is very clear



Σατανᾶς/Satan 36x in New Testament

Luke 22:3 – Satan entered into Judas

Luke 22:31-32 & John 13 –

Jesus, “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat.

But I have prayed for you ...

that your faith will not fail.

And when you have turned back,

strengthen your brothers.”



Σατανᾶς/Satan 36x in New Testament

Acts 5:3, Peter, “Ananias, how is it that

Satan has filled your heart

to lie to the Holy Spirit?”

Rev 2:9 & 3:9, “false Jews who lie

but are of the synagogue of Satan”

2 Cor 11:14,

Satan masquerades as an

Angel of Light



18 wanted to come ... but Satan obstructed us.

You understand ... then ... that Satan is real

At times even Jesus just PRAYS as Satan harasses

When Paul said, “Satan obstructed” – Satan DID!

So very much is missing ... we will never KNOW

What MUST be said ... observed ... remembered

NOT ALL is Satan ... not EVERY trial is Satan

You & I are NOT Jesus or Paul ... Please

Don't *Always* Blame Scratch



18 wanted to come ... but Satan obstructed us.

**19 After all, who is our hope, our joy, our crown of boasting,
if it is NOT you yourselves
in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?**

20 You are indeed our glory and our joy.

**Yes, Satan obstructed ... vs. 17, “we were
torn away from you for a short time—
in person, not in heart.”**

Satan is powerless against LOVE

Don't be deceived ... Loving Others



¹⁹ After all, who is **our Hope, our Joy, our Crown** of boasting,
if it is **NOT** you yourselves
in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

²⁰ You are indeed our glory and our joy.

They were Paul's **HOPE ... JOY ... CROWN**

Satan is powerless against **LOVE**

Don't be deceived ... Don't get distracted ...



Loving Others

Empowers YOUR Soul