

## **BRETHREN OF GOD'S FAMILY**

We are currently studying the Book of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians by chapter, verse, and categorical bible doctrines. In this study I have divided chapter two into four parts using the word **BRETHREN**:

- **1 Thess.2:1-8**
  - (vs.1), “For you yourselves know, **brethren**, that our coming to you was not in vain,”
- **1 Thess.2:9-13**
  - (vs.9), “For you recall, **brethren**, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”
- **1 Thess.2:14-16**
  - (vs.14) “For you, **brethren**, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,
- **1 Thess.2:17-20**
  - (vs.17) “But we, **brethren**, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit - were all the more eager with great desire to see your face”.

In every text “brethren” is used in the vocative of address (v/pl/m). Later in 1 Thess.5:26 it is an (a/pl/m).

Brethren is an interesting English word that comes out of 18<sup>th</sup> century German, interpreted from the Greek word adelphos. **Webster**: “It was used chiefly in formal or solemn address or in referring to members of a profession, society, or sect.” (pg.153)

<b>This lesson will study <u>five aspects</u> of the doctrine, Brethren of God's Family.</b>
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### **1. Brethren was a term used in biblical dispensations to identify the Divine Agency of God as custodians of the word of God and evangelism.**

**The term Brethren** was used doctrinally to identified believers through-out biblical messianic genealogies (**Gen.5**) Adam; Sethites and Shemites; (**Gen.11**) Shemites to Abram/ Jews; (**Matt.1:1-17**; and **Luke 3:23-38**) **Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:45)**.

In his sermon at Pentecost, Peter used **Brethren** to refer to the Jews as custodians of word of God and evangelism under the old covenant (Acts 2:14, 19, 22). Paul did the same thing in (Acts 13:14, 26).

However, in (Acts 15:1, 7), Paul used it referring to both Jews and Gentiles who believed the grace gospel of salvation as Brethren in Christ (**Acts 15:5-11**; Gal.3:26-29).

### **2. The Divine Agency of the Priest-Nation of Israel, under the old covenant, was transferred to the church of Jesus Christ under the new covenant (1 Thess.2:1, 9, 14, 17).**

Therefore, the doctrinal term **BRETHREN** was also transferred to the Church in Book of 1 Thessalonians.

(Rom.1:16) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jews first and also to the Greek.**” (Gal.3:26-29)

**3. Brethren is an endearing term of those who are born again by faith in the grace gospel of Jesus Christ.**

(1 Thess.2:1) “For you yourselves know (oida/ perf.a ind.2pl), **brethren.**” (1 Thess.2:1-8/ 1:5-7)

Every person becomes a Brethren in God’s family the moment he/she believes that Jesus died for their sin, was buried, and raised from the dead on the third day (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

(1 Thess.1:5) “For our **gospel** did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.”

The word gospel is used three times in our lesson text (1 Thess.2:2, 4,and 8) in addressing the Brethren.

**4. Brethren is a word used to describe the believer’s family relationship with God as his/her Abba Father by spiritual adoption.**

(Gal.4:4-7) “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were born under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God” (Rom.8:15-17)

(John 1:11-13) “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **But to as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God**, even to **those who believe** In His name, **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God.**”

**5. Brethren is ONE of TWENTY Status Privileges in the package of grace salvation that a church age believer can never lose in time or eternity because of Positional Sanctification. See [50 Things Free](#)**

(2 Cor.5:17) “Therefore if anyone is **in Christ** (positional sanctification), he is a new creation; **the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**”

(1 Cor.15:22) “For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all will be made alive**”.

(2 Thess.2:13-14) “**But we should always give thanks to God** for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, **that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**”.

(Rom.8:38-39) “**I am convinced that** neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, not height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

(Eph.1:13) “**In Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were **sealed in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise.”