

I Thessalonians – Chapter Two

v.1-2 – Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the circumstances from which he left before he came to them, the difficulty in Philippi, being persecuted, beaten, imprisoned and run out of town. Yet God by his spirit gave both He and his company holy boldness to preach the gospel to them. These next verses should be guides for all who do any kind of ministry in the name of the Lord.

v. 3 – taught the gospel with no deceit, no uncleanness, no guile. In other words:

1. They were truthful, and not teaching in error
2. Chaste, not motivated by impurity, no hidden motives
3. No tricks, didn't try to fool anyone

v. 4 – God trusted them with the gospel, not pleasing men, but God, who knows the heart

4. Authorized by God to minister
5. Not self-seeking or men pleasers, not seeking to win men's favor

v.5 - 6. Not a flatterer, giving praise to gratify someone's vanity to win favor

7. Not covering up for greed (cloak of covetousness) not for monetary gain

v.6 8. Not seeking glory from men, or honor or prestige

9. Was not a taker (sought not to be a burden; he made tents to support himself)

v.7 -8 – Paul's affection for them was "motherly", as a nurse or nursing mother cherisheth her children, hugs, protects, nourishes, etc. These are the gentle feelings he has for them, such that not only did he impart the gospel of God, he gave of his own soul. Should we not only minister to get the job done, but also be willing to give of our heart, to become emotionally invested. To love so that those to whom you minister are dear to you.

v.9,10 – They labored day and night so that the people would not have to take care of them, which really was the apostles due. 1) Self-supporting 2) well behaved (holily, justly, unblameably; pure, honest, innocent, respectively) 3) Exhorted, comforted, charged you As a Father does, that you walk worthy of God who called you to his kingdom and glory, that you live in a way that honor's God who called you.

v.13-16 – He thanks God that they received the word, not as the word of men, but of God. God gives and provides, but it is up to us to receive. In receiving they became part of the church of God in Christ Jesus, imitating those in Judea who suffered persecution of the Jews, who killed Jesus (Paul is talking about the Jewish leaders, not all of the Jews), They also didn't want him to preach the good news to the gentiles (bigotry). The Thessalonians would also get opposition from their gentile countrymen. This opposition just added to their sin, which would be judged.v.